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THE HISTORY OF THE DISCOVERY and CONQUEST OF THE CANARY ISLANDS:

Tranſlated from a SPANISH MANUSCRIPT, lately found in the Iſland of PALMA.

WITH AN

ENQUIRY into the ORIGIN of the ANCIENT INHABITANTS.

To which is added,

A Deſcription of the CANARY ISLANDS,

INCLUDING

The MODERN HISTORY of the INHABITANTS, and an Account of their Manners, Cuſtoms, Trade, &c.

By Capt. GEORGE GLAS.

With his LIFE and tragical END, on Board the Sandwich of London; and an Account of the Apprehending, Trial, Conviction, and Execution of the four Aſſaſſins, Perpetrators of that horrid Crime.

In TWO VOLUMES.

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A

DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

CANARY ISLANDS.

CHAP. I.

A Deſcription of Lancerota and the adjacent uninhabited Iſlands.

THIS iſland is very high, and may be diſcerned at a great diſtance. On approaching it ſeems very black, rocky, and barren. It is about fifteen miles long and ten broad. The latitude of the centre of the iſland is twenty-nine degrees eight minutes north.

THE principal port is on the ſouth-eaſt ſide, and is called Porto de Naos, where any veſſel, not drawing above eighteen feet, may enter at high-water and ſpring tides, and lay ſecure from all winds and weather; although in ſailing along the coaſt, the ſhipping appear as if at anchor in an open road, the harbour being formed by a ridge of rocks, which cannot be perceived at any diſtance, moſt of them lying under water: theſe break off the ſwell of the ſea, ſo that the inſide is as ſmooth as a mill-pond. As there is no other convenient place in this, or any of the reſt of the Canary

Iſlands, for cleaning or repairing large veſſels, it is much frequented for that purpoſe by the ſhipping which trade to theſe iſlands. At the weſt end of the harbour ſtands a ſquare caſtle, built of ſtone, and mounted with ſome cannon, but of no very great ſtrength, for ſhips of war may approach within muſquet-ſhot of it.

At this port there is no town or village, but there are ſome magazines, where corn is depoſited in order to be ready for exportation.

On the weſt ſide of the caſtle is another port, called Porto Cavallos, and by ſome El Recife. This is alſo an excellent harbour, formed, like Porto de Naos, by a ridge of rocks; but the entrance to it is ſhallow, there being no more than twelve feet water at ſpring-tides. Upon a ſmall iſland, or large rock, between the two harbours, ſtands the aforeſaid caſtle, which defends them both. This rock is joined to the land by a bridge, under which boats go from Porto de Naos to Porto Cavallos.

At the north end of Lancerota is a large ſpacious harbour, called El Rio, which is a ſtreight or channel, dividing the iſland of Lancerota from the uninhabited iſland of Graciоſa. A ſhip of any burthen may enter this harbour at one end, and go out at the other: if ſhe keeps in the mid-way between the two iſlands, ſhe will always have ſix or ſeven fathoms water.

But if a ſhip want a ſmooth place to lie in while the trade-wind blows, ſhe muſt, in coming into this harbour from the eaſtward, run a good way in, and double a ſhallow point which

which lies on the right hand, taking care to give it a good birth, which may eaſily be done by coming no nearer it than four fathoms; when paſt it, ſhe may edge near to Gracioſa, and anchor in any convenient depth of water; for it ſhoals gradually towards the ſhore, cloſe to which there are two fathoms.

THIS is a convenient place in the ſummer-ſeaſon for careening large ſhips; for a man of war of any nation that may happen to be at war with Spain, may come in here and unload all her ſtores, &c. on the iſland of Gracioſa, and heel and ſcrub. Or if two chance to come in together, the one may heave down by the other; in doing which they need not fear any oppoſition from the inhabitants, for there is neither caſtle or habitation near this port.

BUT the water here is not ſo ſmooth as in Porto de Naos, eſpecially if the trade-wind happens to blow hard from the eaſt, which ſends in a ſwell that makes it very troubleſome, if not impoſſible to careen a ſhip properly. But the wind does not often blow from that quarter in this part of the world. That which prevails moſt is the north or north-north-eaſt trade-wind. In mooring here, great care muſt be taken to have a good anchor and large ſcope of cable towards Lancerota; for in eaſt or ſouth-eaſt winds, heavy guſts or ſqualls come from the high land of that iſland. In the winter the wind here ſometimes ſhifts to the ſouth-weſt, when it is neceſſary to weigh and run back to the eaſtward round the aforeſaid ſhallow point, until the ſhip be land locked from that wind, and there anchor.

THAT part of Lancerota facing the harbour of El Rio is an exceeding high and ſteep cliff, from the bottom of which to the harbour or ſea-ſhore, is about two muſquet-ſhot diſtance. The ground in this ſpace is low, and here is a ſalina or ſalt-work, being a ſquare piece of land, levelled, and divided by ſhallow trenches about two inches deep; into theſe they let the ſea-water, which, by the heat of the ſun and the nature of the ſoil, ſoon turns into ſalt.

FROM the ſhore of this harbour there is no other way of acceſs into Lancerota than by climbing a narrow, ſteep, and intricate path-way that leads to the top of the high cliff before-mentioned. It is ſcarce poſſible for a ſtranger to aſcend it without a guide; for if he ſhould chance to wander from the path, he could not eaſily find it again, and would be in imminent danger of breaking his neck.

THERE are no other ports in Lancerota beſides thoſe already mentioned. All the ſouth ſide of the iſland may be reckoned one continued harbour when the trade-wind blows, for then the ſea there is ſmooth, and a boat may land at many places without any danger from the ſurf.

ABOUT two leagues inland from Porto de Naos, towards the north weſt, is the town of Cayas, or Rubicon, the chief habitation in the iſland, and which was formerly a Biſhop's ſee. It contains about two hundred houſes, a church, and a convent of Friars: it has an old caſtle, mounted with ſome guns for its defence. Moſt of the dwelling-houſes here have but a mean appearance.

ABOUT

About two leagues inland, and to the ſouthward from the top of the narrow pathway of the cliff at El Rio, ſtands the town of Haria, the next in ſize to Cayas. I imagine it may contain about three hundred inhabitants. All the buildings here, except the church and three or four private houſes, are very mean and poor. When I was there, it was the reſidence of the Governor, but the Alcalde Major and the officers of the Inquiſition lived at Rubicon.

The iſland Gracioſa lies on the north ſide of the channel El Rio, and is an uninhabited and barren iſland, which is deſtitute of water. It is about three miles in length, and two in breadth. In the winter-ſeaſon the natives of Lancerota ſend goats and ſheep there to graze; but in the ſummer, when there is no rain, and the graſs is dry and withered, they are obliged to bring them back to Lancerota.

Four or five miles north of Gracioſa, lies Alegranza, a high and rocky iſland, barren, and deſtitute of water, conſequently uninhabited. It is not ſo large as Gracioſa. On viewing it from the top of a mountain in Gracioſa, it appeared to me that a ſhip might ride at anchor in ſmooth water to leeward of it, where the ſea ſeems to be coloured white, as if there was ſhoal-water and a ſandy bottom. The natives of Lancerota go at certain times to Alegranza, to gather orchilla-weed.

About eight miles to the eaſtward of Alegranza and Gracioſa is a large high rock in the ſea, called Roca del Eſte, i. e. the Eaſt Rock. On the weſt ſide of thoſe iſlands is another of the ſame ſize, Roca del Ouſte, i. e. the Weſt

Rock. South-weſt, about three leagues from Gracioſa, lies a rocky uninhabited iſland, named Santa Clara. Many ſhips are wrecked upon theſe uninhabited iſlands in the night-time, being miſled by errors in their reckoning, and alſo by thoſe iſlands being improperly laid down in our charts, which generally place them thirty miles further ſouth than they ought to be.

I remember, that, a few years ago an Engliſh ſhip ran, in the night, upon Alegranza, and was ſoon after beat to pieces. The crew with ſome difficulty got ſafe aſhore upon the iſland, where they made ſeveral ſignals to acquaint the natives of Lancerota with their diſtreſs and bring them to their relief, but in vain.

MEAN time they had the good fortune to find ſome rain-water in the holes of the rocks; this, with what proviſions they had ſaved from the wreck, enabled them to ſubſiſt for ſome days; but ſeeing famine ſtaring them in the face, and obſerving that the wind blew almoſt continually from Alegranza toward Gracioſa, they made a raft of ſpars, which they had ſaved from the wreck, and ſecured it well together with ropes; upon this raft the maſter of the veſſel embarking, having a maſt and ſail, and an oar to ſerve inſtead of a rudder, boldly put to ſea, and ſoon after ſafely landed in Gracioſa, where, as it was then winter-ſeaſon, he found ſome ſhepherds and fiſhermen, to whom he related his adventure and the diſtreſs of his crew: upon which the fiſhermen immediately went off in a boat to their relief, and brought them all ſafe to Lancerota.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Description of the Island of Fuertaventura.

THE north end of this island lies south-and-by-west from the south-west point of Lancerota, about seven miles distance.

IN the channel between them, but nearest to Fuertaventura, lies the little island of Lobos (i. e. Seals), which is about a league in circumference, uninhabited and destitute of water.

NEAR it there is a good road for shipping: the mark to find it, is to bring the east point of Lobos to bear north-east-by-north or north-east, and anchor half way between it and Fuertaventura, or rather nearer to Fuertaventura. Although this road seems to be open and exposed, yet it is very safe with the trade-wind, for the water is smooth, and the ground every where clean, being a fine sandy bottom. Right ashore from the road, on the shore of Fuertaventura, is a well of good water, easy to come at.

FUERTAVENTURA is about eighty miles in length, and in general fifteen in breadth; in the middle it is narrow and low, for it is there almost cut in two by the sea. That part of the island which is on the south side of the isthmus is mountainous, sandy, barren, and almost entirely uninhabited. The northern

part is also mountainous, yet the inland part is fertile and well inhabited.

In sailing along this island, there are no houses to be discerned on the sea-coast, except at two or three places, where barks go to load corn.

About sixteen miles to the southward of the road, near Lobos, is a bay, in which there is a road where barks lie and lade corn; it is called Porto de Cabras: a stranger cannot find it without a pilot, for the ground all round it is rocky and foul. On the shore, near the road, is a patch of yellow sand, which appears off at sea like a few acres of ripe corn, or field of wheat just reaped: this is the best mark I know for finding Porto de Cabras.

Two leagues further along the shore, to the southward, is the port of Cala de Fustes, where corn is also shipped off. This harbour is only fit for small barks: here they lie secure from all winds, except the south-east, which rarely blows in that part of the world. When that happens, they immediately unload, and hawl up their barks on the beach at high-water and then fill them with stones; so that notwithstanding the swell which the wind sends in, they remain immoveable and unhurt. There is a good road before the harbour, where ships may ride, which is described in the map of the islands.

This port may be known by a round black tower, and some houses near it. This tower is built of great stones with lime, after the same form as the castle of Rubicon in Lancerota, and, like it, has the door about twelve feet higher than the ground, so that to enter one

one muſt place a ladder againſt the wall, and ſo climb up. The top of the tower is flat, with battlements round it, on which are mounted two or three cannon for the defence of the port and ſhipping from corſairs. A Serjeant of the militia, with his family, reſides in a houſe cloſe by, whoſe office it is to take an account of what corn is ſhipped off from the port. He is alſo Governor of the fort and harbour, and gives an account to the Governor of the iſland and the Alcalde Major, of all ſhips that arrive in the road or haven. In caſe of an enemy's ſhip appearing, he is to alarm the iſland, and retire with his family and the crews of the barks, into the tower, and draw in the ladder after him, and ſhut the door: in which caſe I imagine it would be no eaſy matter to get at them.

FOUR leagues to the ſouthward of Cala de Fuſtes is a high, ſteep, rocky point, called Punta de Negro; between theſe are ſome bays, where ſhips may anchor, and where freſh water may be had; but a ſtranger cannot diſcover the proper anchoring-ground nor the watering-places, without a pilot. As I cannot pretend to give directions ſo exactly as that a ſtranger may not miſtake them, I think it better not to give any. On the other ſide of Cape Negro is a ſpacious bay, called Las Playas: the beſt anchoring-place in it, is on the north ſide, within a large white ſandy ſpot on the cliffs on the right hand going in: there it is clean ſandy ground, at a convenient diſtance from the ſhore, in fourteen fathoms water. But becauſe of the ſudden guſts from the cliffs, and eddies of wind that blow from many points

points of the compaſs in this bay, it will be neceſſary to moor your veſſel.

In the north corner of the bay there is a well, eaſy of acceſs, being cloſe to the ſea, which, if I remember right, flows into it at high-water. The water of this well is ſomewhat brackiſh, and ſoon ſtinks.

The weſtward or leeward point of this bay is a high rocky cliff, the top of which projects and hangs over the ſea: juſt beyond it is a ſandy bay, called Gran Tarrahala, where a ſhip may anchor in ſix or ſeven fathoms water. On the ſhore of this bay is a wood of a ſort of buſhes like wild pine, ſome of which are big enough for fuel for ſhipping; an article of great value in Lancerota and Fuertaventura.

From Tarrahala bay, weſt-ſouth-weſt half ſouth, ſeven leagues diſtant, is a point called Morro Gable: all the land between is ſandy, barren, and uninhabited.

From Morro Gable, weſt, twelve miles diſtance, is the point of Handia. There are many anchoring-places in this tract, with a [illegible] wind: the ſea here is ſmooth, and there is plenty of good freſh water to be had. If you have not an experienced pilot, you muſt find out the beſt ground for anchoring in by the lead. The wells aſhore cannot be found without a guide. But the bay of Handia, lying to the eaſtward of the point of that name, is a ſpacious bay, with clean ſandy ground, where the ſea is generally very ſmooth. About half a mile right off to ſea from the point lies a ſunken rock, which may ſometimes be ſeen at low water: the ſea commonly breaks upon it. Beyond Point Handia, the ſhore turns

turns to the northward, along by the other ſide of the iſland, unto the iſle of Lobos. All this ſide of the iſland, except the middle, is much expoſed to a northerly wind, which throws a heavy ſwelling ſea on the many reefs of rocks that abound there, on which it breaks with great violence; but the middle part is a large bight, having a ſandy ſhore, at a convenient diſtance from which there is good anchoring, and clear ſandy ground. On the ſhore there is a port and village, called Toſton, where barks lade corn: here is a tower, like that at Cala de Fuſtes. What is here ſaid concerning this ſide of the iſland, I have from the relations of the Canary ſeamen; I have never been there myſelf. I ſhall now proceed to deſcribe the inland places.

Now quite two leagues inland from the road of Lobos before-mentioned, is a town called Oliva, ſituated in the middle of a plain abounding with corn-fields. Here is a church and ſome good houſes, the number of them, if I remember right, may be about fifty. The next town to this, in the ſame direction from Lobos, is La Villa, the chief town in the iſland: this place is the centre of that part of the iſland lying north of the iſthmus. Here is a church and a convent of Franciſcan Friars; the number of houſes are nearly an hundred.

A ſhort league inland from Las Playas, is a town called Tunehe; this alſo contains about an hundred houſes, but they are very mean, in compariſon with thoſe of La Villa and Oliva.

Besides theſe there are many ſmall villages ſcattered up and down in the northern and inland

land part of the iſland, in ſuch a manner that as ſoon as we loſe ſight of one, we come in view of another; but the ſea-coaſt, as I ſaid before, is rocky, barren, and uninhabited. The other half of the iſland, called Handia, is totally deſolate, only here and there one meets with a ſhepherd's cottage, for there are no villages or farms in that part of the iſland.

Between the ſouth-weſt end of Lancerota and the little iſland of Lobos, there is a broad channel, through which ſhips ſail, being deep in the middle, and ſhoaling gradually towards Lancerota, near to which are five fathoms water, but very near or cloſe to Lobos the ground is foul and rocky. There is room enough in this paſſage for ſhips of any burden to ply to windward, and there is no neceſſity for approaching too near to Lobos.

When a ſhip comes from the eaſtward with the trade-wind, and is paſſing through this channel, bound to the weſtward, as ſoon as ſhe brings a hill on Lancerota to bear right to windward of her, ſhe will be becalmed, and ſoon after have the wind at ſouth-weſt. When this happens, ſhe muſt make ſhort tacks until ſhe gets into the trade again, or a conſtant northerly wind, the firſt puff of which will come to her at weſt or weſt-north-weſt, which when ſhe receives ſhe muſt not ſtand to the northward, otherwiſe ſhe will immediately loſe it again, but muſt ſtand towards Lobos, the nearer ſhe approaches to which ſhe will have the wind more large; and before ſhe is two-thirds channel-over, ſhe will have a ſteady wind at north or north-north-eaſt.

There

THERE is a channel between the north end of Fuertaventura and Lobos, but not ſo deep or broad as the other; yet to thoſe who are acquainted with it, it is a good paſſage, for there is not leſs than five fathoms water in the fair way.

WHEN there is a great weſterly ſwell hereabouts, the ſea breaks on the rocks at the north-weſt end of Lobos, with ſuch violence, that it is horrible to behold; and I may, without exaggeration affirm, that I have ſeen breakers there near ſixty feet high; was one of theſe to ſtrike the ſtrongeſt ſhip, ſhe would be ſtaved to pieces in a moment. When I ſaw thoſe mighty breakers, our ſhip had juſt paſſed through the channel between Fuertaventura and Lobos: we had a fine briſk trade-wind at north-north-eaſt; and although we had no leſs than ten fathoms depth of water when we came into the weſterly ſwell, yet we trembled for fear the waves would have broken, and thought ourſelves happy when we got out of ſoundings. We heard the noiſe of theſe breakers, like diſtant thunder, after we were paſt them ſix or ſeven leagues.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of the Climate, Weather, Soil, and Produce of the Iſlands of Lancerota and Fuertaventura.

THE climate of thoſe iſlands is exceeding wholeſome, which may be owing to the drineſs of the ſoil and the ſtrong northerly winds that almoſt continually blow upon them, ſo that the inhabitants in general live to a great age.

FROM the middle or end of April, unto the beginning or middle of October, the wind blows vehemently, and almoſt without intermiſſion from the north and north-north-eaſt: ſometimes it veers a little to the eaſtward. From the middle of October to the end of April, it blows generally in the ſame direction, but now and then intermits and gives place to other winds. The ſouth-weſt wind always brings rain, and therefore is a moſt welcome gueſt to theſe iſlands. Other winds bring ſhowers, particularly the north-weſt; but thoſe ſhowers are partial, and of no duration, conſequently are of little ſervice to the ground: but the rain that comes from the ſouth-weſt often laſts two or three days. It falls very thick, in ſmall drops, and ſoaks into the earth, moiſtening it thoroughly. When theſe rains begin to fall, the natives ſow their grain; and about fourteen or twenty days after the

the latter rains, viz. towards the end of April, it is ready for reaping. Of the natures and properties of the winds that blow among thoſe iſlands, I ſhall have occaſion to treat at length in the deſcription of the oppoſite continent. I ſhall only obſerve here, that the north and north-north-eaſt winds blow ſo hard and conſtantly upon theſe iſlands, as to prevent the growth of all ſorts of trees, eſpecially in Lancerota, which is moſt expoſed to their violence: yet we find a few ſhrubs or buſhes there, called Tubaybas, which never grow to a great height any where; but here, becauſe of the ſtrong winds, they ſpread along the ground, except when ſheltered from it by rocks or walls. In the gardens there are fig-trees and ſome low trees or ſhrubs, which ſeldom ſhoot up higher than the garden-walls.

FUERTAVENTURA is not quite ſo much expoſed to the wind as Lancerota; therefore it is not quite ſo bare of trees and ſhrubs. Thoſe that grow there are the palm, the wild olive, and a ſort of wild pine, which the natives call Tarrahala. The cotton and euphorbium ſhrubs, fig-trees, and the ſhrub bearing the prickly pear, grow in gardens, although this laſt grows without cultivation in the fields in Canaria, and the iſlands to the weſtward thereof.

ALTHOUGH theſe iſlands are ſo deſtitute of trees, yet they abound with excellent herbage, among which grow ſeveral kinds of odoriferous flowers; the great plenty and variety of theſe induced the inhabitants to bring bees from the other iſlands, in order to propagate here; but they were diſappointed in their expecta-

tions,

tions, as none of thoſe inſects would remain with them: in all probability they could not bear the violent winds which blow here. Corn of various kinds grow in Lancerota and Fuertaventura, namely, wheat, barley, maize or Indian corn, and in ſuch abundance as not only to ſerve the inhabitants, but alſo thoſe of Teneriſe and Palma, who depend greatly on theſe iſlands for their ſuſtenance.

Till within theſe laſt thirty years Lancerota produced no vines: at that time a volcano broke out, and covered many fields with ſmall duſt and pumice-ſtones, which have improved the ſoil to ſuch a degree, that vines are now planted there, which thrive well and yield grapes, but the wine made from them is thin, poor, and ſo ſharp, that a ſtranger cannot diſtinguiſh it by the taſte from vinegar; yet it is very wholeſome. Fuertaventura produces a greater quantity of wine, which is of a quality ſomething ſuperior to that of Lancerota.

Upon the rocks on the ſea-coaſt grows a great quantity of orchilla weed, an ingredient uſed in dying, well known to our dyers in London. It grows out of the pores of the ſtones or rocks, to about the length of three inches: I have ſeen ſome eight or ten inches, but that is not common. It is of a round form, and of the thickneſs of common ſewing twine. Its colour is grey, inclining to white: here and there on the ſtalk we find white ſpots, or ſcabs. Many ſtalks proceed from one root, at ſome diſtance from which they divide into branches. There is no earth or mould to be perceived upon the rock or ſtone where it grows. Thoſe who do not

know

know this weed, or are not accuſtomed to gather it, would hardly be able to find it; for it is of ſuch a colour, and grows in ſuch a direction, that it appears at firſt ſight to be the ſhade of the rock on which it grows. This weed dyes a beautiful purple; and is alſo much uſed for brightening and enlivening other colours. The beſt ſort is that of the darkeſt colour, and of a form exactly round; the more it abounds with white ſpots or ſcabs, the more valuable. This weed grows in the Canary, Madeira, and Cape de Verd Iſlands, and on the coaſt of Barbary; but the beſt ſort and the greateſt quantity is found in the Canary Iſlands. That found on the adjacent coaſt of Africa is equal in quality, but, for want of ſeaſonable rains, it does not grow near ſo faſt. There is ſome reaſon to imagine that the orchilla was the Gertulian purple of the ancients. In ſupport of this opinion, we may obſerve that the coaſt of Africa adjacent to the Canary Iſlands, was by the ancients called Getulia, and abounds with orchilla. I cannot conceive how the Europeans came to the knowledge of the uſe of this weed; for immediately on the diſcovery of the Canary Iſlands, they ſought after it as eagerly as the Spaniards afterwards, on the diſcovery of America, did for gold: for the natives of the Canary Iſlands, and of that part of Africa formerly called Getulia, at this time know not the uſe of orchilla; neither doth it appear to any one to be a dye-ſtuff; for the colour is extracted from it by art and much preparation. None of it grows in any part of Europe that I know of, in ſuch a quantity that one could gather a handful

handful in the ſpace of a day, except in the iſlands of the Archipelago, or on the rocks of Sicily, where of late they began to gather it, if I am not miſtaken, only about eight or ten years ago. One would be apt to imagine, that in the days of the diſcovery of the Canaries, ſome book was extant that gave an account of the orchilla, the place of its growth, its uſe, and method of extracting its dye.

In Lancerota are very few ſprings or wells of water. What the inhabitants uſe for themſelves and cattle is rain-water, which they preſerve in pits and ciſterns. This method is alſo practiſed in Fuertaventura, though there they have more ſprings and wells, but the water is generally brackiſh. At El Rio, on the Lancerota ſide of the port, and to the northward of the ſalina before-mentioned, is a well of medicinal water, reckoned a ſovereign cure for the itch. It is alſo good for common drinking, and will keep ſweet at ſea. It is eaſy of acceſs, lying cloſe to the water-ſide: it yields enough to fill two hogſheads in twenty-four hours. When I was there, it purged ſome of our crew for the firſt two days they drank of it; but afterwards it had no ſuch effect.

The cattle of thoſe iſlands are camels, horſes, aſſes, bullocks, ſheep, goats, and hogs, all of which, excepting the ſheep and goats, were brought to them ſince the conqueſt, from Barbary and Spain. The horſes here are of the Barbary breed, and are much eſteemed in Canaria and Tenerife for their ſpirit and ſwiftneſs; but as they are of little or no uſe in theſe iſlands, the natives having no diſtance to travel,

and

and the difficulty of tranſporting them by ſea being ſo great, little or no care is taken to preſerve or increaſe the breed; ſo that at preſent their number is very ſmall. For travelling, the natives uſe aſſes of a larger ſize than thoſe of the other iſlands, which are maintained at little or no expence, and ſerve well enough for their ſhort journies.

In the ſpring, their cattle are fat and good: they appear at that time quite plump, ſleek, and gliſten as if they were rubbed with oil; but in the beginning of autumn, when the graſs is all withered or eaten up, they have a very different appearance, and are not fit for food.

They generally plow here with a camel or a couple of aſſes; for the ſoil is light, and they do not plow deep.

The ſea-coaſts of Lancerota and Fuertaventura afford the inhabitants fiſh of various kinds in great plenty, particularly a ſort of cod which they call Cherney, much better taſted than the cod of Newfoundland, or thoſe of the North Sea. Another fiſh, of a yet more excellent taſte, is catched here, called Mero: it is as long as a cod, but much thicker and has long ſtraps or whiſkers hanging at his mouth.

It would be a tedious taſk for me to deſcribe the various ſorts of them, to which I could not give Engliſh names, though there is one ſort I muſt not paſs over; I mean the Picudo, or ſea-pike, the bite of which is as poiſonous as that of a viper; yet this fiſh, when killed and dreſſed, is good and innocent food. On the rocks, by the ſea-ſhore, are

many

many ſhell-fiſh, particularly limpets, which the natives make a proper uſe of.

The want of wood or buſhes occaſions a ſcarcity of birds and wild-fowl; yet there are ſome Canary-birds, and a bird called Tubayba, about the ſize of a ſtarling, ſpeckled black and white; here are alſo partridges and ravens, with plenty of dunghill-fowls; but no turkeys, geeſe, or ducks: the want of the two laſt-mentioned ſpecies may probably be owing to the ſcarcity of water in the iſlands. Here are no venomous animals but the black ſpider, the bite of which, the natives ſay, is poiſonous, and occaſions a ſwelling attended with a burning pain: their cure for it is to eat a ſmall quantity of human excrement. Probably the great natural antipathy to this medicine has ſuch an effect on the human frame, as to kill or expel the venom received by the bite.

On the north-ſide of the uninhabited iſland of Gracioſa, is a ſmall ſandy bay, called by the natives Playa del Ambar. Here is ſometimes found a very good kind of ambergreaſe, in form ſomething like a pear, having commonly a ſhort ſtalk: by this it ſhould ſeem that it grows on the rocks under-water, which are near to this place, and is waſhed aſhore by the waves, for it is generally found after ſtormy weather.

In Lancerota and Fuertaventura are many hills that have formerly been volcanos, the tops of which are of a ſmall circumference, and are hollow for a little way downwards, the edges of the tops being generally very narrow and ſharp. Upon the outſide is com-

commonly ſeen a great deal of black duſt and burnt ſtone like pumice-ſtone, only darker and more ponderous. This ſubſtance ſeems to have been thrown out of the bowels of the earth by the eruptions, none of which have been known to happen in theſe two iſlands of late ages, except at Lancerota; where, about thirty years ago, a volcano broke out on the ſouth-weſt part of the iſland, which threw out ſuch an immenſe quantity of aſhes and huge ſtones, and with ſo dreadful a noiſe, that many of the natives deſerted their houſes and fled to Fuertaventura, for the preſervation of their lives: ſome time after, finding that thoſe who remained in Lancerota had received no hurt, they took courage and returned. This volcano was near the ſea, in a remote place from any habitation. In the ſea, at a ſmall diſtance from the volcano, iſſued a pillar of ſmoke, and afterwards a ſmall pyramidal rock aroſe, which remains to this day. This rock was joined to the iſland by the matter thrown out of the volcano; the noiſe of this eruption was ſo loud and great, that it was heard at Tenerife, although at the diſtance of forty leagues. The noiſe being conveyed ſo far, might probably be occaſioned by the winds generally blowing from Lancerota towards Tenerife.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Inhabitants of Lancerota and Fuertaventura, their Method of Living, Manners, and Cuſtoms, &c.

ALTHOUGH the natives of theſe iſlands paſs for Spaniards, yet they are ſprung from a mixture of the ancient inhabitants, the Normans, and other Europeans who ſubdued them, and from ſome Mooriſh captives, whom Diego de Herrera and others brought to the iſlands from the coaſt of Barbary, as has been obſerved in the Hiſtory of the Diſcovery and Conqueſt.

THEY are, in general, of a large ſize, robuſt, ſtrong, and of a very dark complexion. By the natives of the reſt of the Canary Iſlands they are accounted rude and unpoliſhed in their manners: this character I believe to be true; for, by what I have had occaſion to obſerve of them, they ſeem to be avaricious, ruſtic, and ignorant, eſpecially thoſe of Lancerota.

THEY neither ſpeak nor underſtand any other language than the Caſtillian, and this they pronounce moſt barbarouſly. They dreſs coarſely, and after the Spaniſh modern faſhion; for the ſhort-cloak and golilla, formerly uſed by the Spaniards, are not known here. Their houſes are built of ſtone and lime; thoſe of the

the gentry are covered with pan-tiles; but the meaner ſort are thatched with ſtraw: very few, even of the better kind, are ceiled or lofted, but are built in form of large barns, and divided into apartments by boarded partitions that run no higher than the top of the walls; ſo that the rooms are all open above, having nothing to cover them except the pan-tiled roof. The floors are commonly paved with flag-ſtones.

THE food of the peaſants is generally what they call Goffio, which is flour of wheat, or barley, toaſted: this they mix with a little water, and bring to the conſiſtence of dough, and thus eat it. This ſimple diet requires neither ſpoons, knives, nor forks. Sometimes indeed, they refine on this fare, by dipping every handful of their Goffio in honey or melaſſes. In the winter-ſeaſon, when the graſs is in perfection, they have plenty of rich and excellent milk, in which they put the Goffio, and ſo eat it, uſing ſea-ſhells inſtead of ſpoons: to a hungry man this is no mean food. Another way of preparing Goffio, is by putting it into boiling milk, and then ſtirring it about until it is ſufficiently boiled and thickened. Although the poor people, on particular occaſions, ſuch as great feſtivals, weddings, &c. eat fleſh and fiſh, yet, as I ſaid before, Goffio is their common food. As to bread, it is rarely uſed by any but the gentry; there are ſome people in theſe iſlands who know not the taſte of it. One reaſon for this may be, that fuel is very ſcarce, eſpecially in Lancerota, inſomuch that I am at a loſs to conceive how the gentry there get a ſufficient quantity to dreſs their victuals.

THE peasants value themselves much on account of their Goffio diet, and despise the bread-eaters of the other islands. Wine they seldom drink, or indeed any thing else than water. Their employment is plowing the ground, sowing and reaping corn, and other labour in husbandry. There are few men artificers in Lancerota and Fuertaventura; for their cloaths are almost all made by the women; houshold furniture, &c. are brought to them from the other islands. There are but few monks, and no nuns in these islands: however, they are in no want of priests, for there are several parish churches, and an inferior Court of Inquisition in each of these islands, to prevent heresy; so that the religion of the church of Rome is the only one professed among them.

THE gentry are very averse to leaving their country, having not the least curiosity to travel and see the world. Very few of them visit Spain, or even Canaria, unless when they are obliged to attend their law-suits in that island. A gentleman here, possessing a few acres of land, a dozen of sheep, a couple of asses, and a camel, would chuse rather to live all his days on Goffio, than venture to the Spanish West Indies to mend his fortune by trade or any other employment: he would even imagine that by engaging in such an undertaking, he should disgrace himself and family for ever. Yet he would not be ashamed to oppress the poor peasants, and meanly deceive or take advantage of strangers, in order to support what is called rank in those islands, which, among the class of gentry I am describing, consists wholly

wholly in not working, or in riding a ſhort diſtance on an aſs, attended by a ragged ſervant, inſtead of travelling on foot: theſe are the points in which they diſtinguiſh themſelves from the vulgar.

To give a more diſtinct idea of the manner and cuſtoms of theſe people, I ſhall here inſert the particulars of ſome journies I made in Lancerota and Fuertaventura. In my paſſage from the coaſt of Africa to Tenerife, I happened to touch at Cala de Fuſtes, in Fuertaventura, where, immediately on our arrival, the officer of the port ſent an expreſs to the Governor at Oliva, to acquaint him therewith. By the return of the expreſs I received an order to come on ſhore to him with all convenient ſpeed; the officer of the port having procured me a ſaddled aſs (for a horſe was not to be had) with a guide. We ſet out from the port about three o'clock in the afternoon; and after having travelled about two hours through dry, barren, and ſtony places, where we ſaw ſome goats and camels grazing, we came to a fine level country, where were many corn-fields, with houſes and ſmall villages ſcattered amongſt them. At ſun-ſetting we came near a pariſh church and parſonage; I intreated the guide to conduct me to the parſon's houſe, to lodge that night, as there are no inns or public houſes in Fuertaventura; but he excuſed himſelf, under various pretences, and perſuaded me to proceed about a mile further, to a rich farmer's houſe, where he ſaid we ſhould be more hoſpitably entertained. When we arrived there our hoſt received us frankly, and ordered a couple of

fowls to be killed and dreſſed for ſupper, which were preſently made ready by his wife. In the mean time the news of the arrival of a ſtranger having ſpread through the village, all the inhabitants came to ſee me; they aſked me a number of curious queſtions concerning England and Spain, with the latter of which they are as little acquainted as with the former. They were ſo inquiſitive, that I was quite ſpent with talking, and they ſcarcely allowed me time to eat, and did not leave me till ten o'clock, which is a very late hour for going to bed in that country. At ſupper, nobody ſat at table but the farmer and myſelf; his wife, as the cuſtom is there, waited on us; and when we had ſupped, removed the fragments, and then went to ſup by herſelf. My guide ſupped with the ſervants upon Goſſio and melaſſes or honey, in the ſame room with us: this they are not uſed to, but being curious, and not willing to loſe the pleaſure of converſing with a ſtranger, they thought it a ſufficient excuſe for diſpenſing with decorum. The farmer, after ſupper, treated the whole company with a tumbler of wine each, which made them talk more than they were accuſtomed to; for the ſervants there are ſeldom indulged with a glaſs of wine. At night, my guide, who ſlept in the ſame bed, diſturbed me much with his ſcratching, having the itch, or ſort of ſcab, to which the people in all the Canary Iſlands are very much ſubject; the cauſe of which I know not: but it is certain, that the people who dwell in countries remarkable for the purity of the air, are more ſubject to this diſorder, than thoſe who live in

in places where the air is moiſt and damp. We roſe before day-break, and purſued our journey, leaving our hoſt and his family faſt aſleep. We now paſſed through a good country, well peopled. Upon the road we met a couple going to church to be married, with their retinue all riding on aſſes: they ſaluted us in this manner, "Ave Maria," i. e. Hail Mary; to which my guide anſwered, "Sin peccado concebida;" that is, Conceived free from original ſin. He reproved me ſeveral times for not anſwering the people we met, in the ſame manner as he did: as I did not chuſe to enter into a diſpute with him, I told him, it would be quite ridiculous in me to conform to one Spaniſh cuſtom, unleſs I could do ſo in all. In the courſe of our converſation on the road, he told me that the farmer, who had entertained us, was exceeding rich; and confeſſed that his reaſon for not putting up at the prieſt's houſe, as I deſired him, was becauſe he could not uſe the freedom there to beg provender for his aſs; but that if he had known what was to happen, he would have complied with my requeſt, "For, ſaid he, the rich miſer made me pay for my barley; and did you mark how ſparing he was of his wine; and when his wife wanted aught, ſhe came to the churl for the keys." I would adviſe all ſtrangers, who may chance to be travelling in Lancerota or Fuertaventura, to put up at a prieſt's, for the clergy there are more capable to furniſh lodging, proviſion, and converſation, than either the peaſants or gentry. The rich farmer before-mentioned had often been at Tenerife, to ſell his corn, and knew

all the Iriſh merchants there: thoſe people are all zealous members of the Romiſh church; and there are no proteſtant merchants in any of the iſlands, except the Engliſh Conſul and another. Being curious to know what opinion the natives had of the Iriſh merchants, I enquired of my hoſt, if he knew a perſon or two, whom I named, and what he thought of them? He ſeemed to have a juſt notion of each; but at laſt, after, I had aſked after about ten of them, he ſaid, "Sir, theſe are all catholics, and very good people, but they are only Chriſtians of St. Patricio." I deſired to know what he meant by this; he gave me no direct anſwer, but ſhook his head and ſaid, "Theſe men are very well in their way, but muſt not be compared to the Chriſtians of theſe iſlands. Ay, ay, added he, ſmiling, it is not for nothing they come to our country." About noon we arrived at Oliva, the reſidence of the Governor, who, with his ſon, was ſitting in a large hall, paved with flags, the ſides of which were adorned with muſquets, ſwords, and pikes. On my entry they received me in a diſtant but polite manner, and deſired me to ſit down. After aſking me ſeveral queſtions relating to the occaſion of my coming to the iſland, and whither I was bound, they began to converſe more freely, and enquired if I was a catholic? When they found I was not, they ſaid, "Is it poſſible, Signior, that a perſon of your prudence and good underſtanding can have any juſt reaſon for not embracing our moſt holy religion?" As I was greatly fatigued with my journey, and faint with hunger and thirſt, I wanted much

much to evade the argument, which I saw approaching; so I told them, every country had its peculiar customs and religion, to which each native was so strongly attached, that it was almost as impossible to persuade him to change his opinion, as to alter his form. Upon this, to my great comfort, dinner appeared, which for the present, gave a truce to the conversation. The dinner consisted of a certain soup made of oil, vinegar, water, pepper, and onions, with a few thin slices of bread; after this course came three boiled eggs, with tolerable good wine and bread. While we were eating, I perceived some ladies peeping at us from the adjacent apartments, who, as soon as they thought they were discovered, withdrew. After dinner, the religious conversation was revived, when, finding my spirits pretty well recruited, and that I could not well evade the argument as before, I disputed with them a considerable time, and at last told them it was in vain for us to talk any more on the subject; for as I held the Christian religion only by the sacred writings of the Old and New Testament, all their arguments drawn from the authority of the church, the writings of the fathers, and the opinions of saints and wise men, went with me for nothing: and added, that if the religion of the New Testament was the same with that now professed by the Romish and Protestant churches, it made that book to be false and incoherent; because the New Testament plainly declares, that no man in any place can embrace or profess Christianity, without suffering worldly loss in some way or other, solely on account of his religion. But, on the contrary, in

Spain, and many other countries, a man cannot be a member of ſociety, unleſs he profeſs what they call Chriſtianity; which is ſo far from being a loſs to thoſe who profeſs it, that it is the firſt ſtep to honour and riches. As the Governor's ſon had heard juſt ſo much about the ſacred writings, as to know that the church pretends to hold them in eſteem, he did not contradict what I ſaid of them, but replied, that he was ſure I muſt be wrong; and that if I would ſtay ſome time in the iſland, he would bring a learned and pious prieſt, who ſhould ſoon convince me of my errror, and ſhew me, that out of the church of Rome there could be no ſalvation. Then riſing, he deſired me to look at the arms with which the hall was adorned, moſt of which were grown ruſty: he aſked me if we had any ſo good in England. Upon this a ſervant entered, and informed them that their horſes were ſaddled and ready. The Governor then ſaid he was ſorry he was obliged to leave me ſo ſoon, gave me a Bill of Health, and an order to be ſupplied with what I wanted, and then took his leave, wiſhing me a happy return to my own country. Before he departed he ordered a ſervant to give us ſome bread and wine, to refreſh us by the way on our return to Cala de Fuſtes. Having this proviſion, we did not ſtop by the way, as before, but went through deſert places, a nearer road to Cala de Fuſtes, where we arrived at two o'clock next morning, and went on board. When we aroſe next day, the Mate informed me, that the Alcalde Major had been on board very early in the morning, and had waited for me

until

until the evening. He found the firſt volume of Don Quixote, in Spaniſh, lying in the cabin, with which he was much pleaſed, and employed himſelf all that day in reading it, except when he left off to breakfaſt and dine: it ſeems he had never ſeen that book before. He left orders with the officer of the tower, to deſire me to wait on him at the Villa; but the Mate, in my abſence, having got on board all the freſh water and proviſions which were wanted, and for which and a Bill of Health we came to the iſland, we thought proper to diſpenſe with the order of the Alcalde Major, and ſailed the next day. It is cuſtomary in Engliſh ſhips lying at anchor in a road, to have a candle burning all night, to be ready in caſe of accidents, and a man or two on the deck to keep watch: my guide obſerving all this, imagined theſe things were done by way of reſpect to me; for when I diſmiſſed him, he ſaid, that if the Governor and gentry of the iſland had the leaſt notion of the grand manner of living in our ſhip, they would not deſpiſe ſeafaring people ſo much as they did; for, added he, none of them eat ſo well, or drink ſo good wine, as your ſeamen.

The ſecond time I was at Fuertaventura, we were forced in there from the coaſt of Barbary, by a gale of wind; for Cape Negro in this iſland is not more than about ſeventeen leagues diſtant from that coaſt. We anchored at that time in the bay of Las Playas, and determined to remain there a few days till the weather ſhould change.

On our arrival, I ſent a meſſenger to the Alcalde Major, to inform him of our being in

the bay; but receiving no anſwer, I went aſhore the next day, with one of our crew, and walked up to the village called El Tunehe, about three miles diſtant. On our arrival there, we went into a cottage for ſhelter from the ſun, and deſired the good woman of the houſe to give us ſomething to eat and drink. She immediately boiled ſome milk with Goffio of barley, and prepared it for our refreſhment, which we found to be a moſt excellent diſh. It being then about the end of May, the weather exceſſive hot, and our faces ſcorched with the ſtrong warm breezes that blow fiercely there at that ſeaſon, we, immediately after our meal, fell faſt aſleep. About an hour after, we were awaked by ſome of the principal inhabitants, who demanded of us from whence we came, and what we wanted in the iſland? After anſwering them, we walked out of the houſe to view the town, which I think is the pooreſt in all the Canary Iſlands. As the wind blew ſtrong, and was therefore very diſagreeable, they conducted us into a garden, where we ſat down behind a wall, for ſhelter from the wind, and were agreeably ſhaded from the rays of the ſun, by the wide ſpreading branches of a large fig-tree. Here we had a great deal of converſation; and among other things, I aſked them how theſe iſlands were firſt peopled? One of them anſwered, that the Roman general Sertorius was the firſt who diſcovered and ſent inhabitants to them. He ſaid, the reaſon why Lancerota and Fuertaventura were more barren than the reſt of the Canary Iſlands, was on account of their vicinity to the coaſt of Africa, "Which, ſaid he, you very well

well know is dry and ſandy." At firſt ſight of this man, we told him we had diſpatched a meſſenger to inform the Alcalde Major of our arrival, and to provide aſſes to carry us to him; but after waiting long, and ſeeing no appearance of our meſſenger's return, or of any preparations for our journey, we told him we could ſtay no longer, but would immediately return to our veſſel, if he did not ſend us forthwith to the Alcalde Major. Upon which, after ſome heſitation, and looking as one aſhamed, he told us, that ſince the truth muſt come out, it ſignified nothing to diſguiſe it any longer, and therefore he had to acquaint us, that as no perſon was allowed to enter the iſland without the licence of the Alcalde Major, whoſe office it was to take care that no infectious diſtemper ſhould be brought into it, they, being his ſervants, had taken the liberty to detain us priſoners until his pleaſure ſhould be known. We were a little alarmed at this declaration; but luckily the Alcalde Major with his retinue arrived at that inſtant, and freed us from our uneaſineſs. About an hour after, being provided with aſſes, at four o'clock in the afternoon, we ſet out, being about eight in company, and travelled all that evening through corn-fields until ſun-ſet, when we paſſed through narrow defiles betwixt the mountains, and arrived at the Alcalde Major's houſe about nine at night. After having conducted us into a room, he left us there for about half an hour, and retired into another apartment where was his family. When ſupper was ready, he returned to us. We were fortunate enough to find bread at the table inſtead

ſtead of Goſſio-dough, and wine that was drinkable, with a couple of broiled chickens; which was a repaſt far better than I expected in ſuch a place, and at ſuch a late hour. On the door of our bed-room was paſted a printed paper, called an Ave Maria, which ran as follows: "Hail, Mary! conceived without ori-" ginal ſin. Whenever any one fervently, " and with ſincere devotion repeats theſe " words, he cauſeth great joy in heaven, and " infinite terror in hell." When I aſked the Alcalde about this paper, he informed us that ſome miſſionaries from Spain came lately to the iſlands, in their way to the Indies, where obſerving a want of devotion to the Virgin, they, in order to enliven it, cauſed the natives to buy thoſe papers, and paſte them on the doors of their houſes and apartments.

Next morning we walked out to ſee the town, which is pleaſantly ſituated in a narrow bottom, ſurrounded with hills. It has a large beautiful church and convent, built of hewn ſtone: moſt of the houſes of the town are neat, but without either balconies or any outer courts, as is the manner of building the houſes of people of faſhion in Spain and in the other iſlands. In the gardens of the town we ſaw no fruit or other trees, except a few palms or fig-trees, and ſome of the ſhrub bearing the prickly pear. After our walk we returned to the houſe, where we breakfaſted on bread, broiled chickens, cheeſe, wine, and ſweat-meats; for the gentry here do not make uſe of chocolate, like thoſe in the reſt of the iſlands. All the time we were in the Alcalde's houſe we ſaw no women, except the ſervants, it not being

being the cuſtom there for women of faſhion to appear before ſtrangers. About ten in the morning we took our leave of him, and returned to Las Playas. On our way thither we ſtopped at a gentleman's houſe, who was a native of Tenerife, and farmed the King's revenue upon ſnuff and tobacco in this iſland. His houſe was two ſtories high, with balconies. He ordered us each a diſh of chocolate, and entertained us after a free, open, and hoſpitable manner; and when we took our leave of him, he made one of his ſervants fill our guide's ſack full of bread, cheeſe, and bottles of wine.

NEXT day the Alcalde Major and the Governor's ſon came to viſit me on board the ſhip at Las Playas. The latter immediately recollected his having ſeen me when I was at Oliva, and reprimanded me becauſe I had not waited on his father. I excuſed myſelf in the beſt manner I could. And when the Alcalde Major underſtood I was the ſame perſon, on board whoſe veſſel he had been ſome years before, at Cala de Fuſtes, he aſked me in a very ſerious manner, why I went away that time without ſeeing him, and paying his fees: he added, that the duty of a maſter of a veſſel, is, whenever he arrives in the iſland, to wait upon him immediately. In anſwer to all this, I pleaded ignorance of the Spaniſh cuſtoms; which is a good apology for ſtrangers to make at all times when they fall into any miſtakes, and are thereby embarraſſed in that country. After entertaining them in the beſt manner I could, they went aſhore, being ſea-ſick, and lodged in a cave near the ſea. We ſtruck a bargain

bargain with them for a cargo of wheat, for one of the veſſels, for at that time I had two in the bay, one of which I intended ſhould carry this corn to the iſland of Madeira.

In order to take on board the corn, it was abſolutely neceſſary to receive a viſit of the Inquiſition, &c. before which no veſſel can trade in theſe iſlands. But when theſe crafty gentlemen found I was in earneſt about buying corn, and that I had received the viſits of the Inquiſitors, they, expecting to make me pay them more money for it, pretended they could not buy the corn ſo cheap as they imagined: "Beſides, ſaid they, we run a great riſque of being called to account for exporting corn contrary to law." When I perceived them ſhuffling, I altered my deſign of buying corn, but attempted to trade with the reſt of the inhabitants for caſh and what little proviſion I wanted for the veſſels; but this did not ſucceed, for the Alcalde Major and his aſſociates, by their power and authority in the iſland, ſo intimidated the natives, and laid ſo many ſtumbling blocks in their way, that they could not buy any thing from me. The Alcalde, finding his ſcheme had taken effect, and that I was diſappointed, propoſed again to ſell the cargo of corn, and to abate ſomething of the price which I had rejected. When he made this propoſal I was aſhore and in his power, therefore did not tell him all I thought, but ſeemed to agree to his offer; but as ſoon as I got on board, prepared every thing for ſailing. As ſoon as they perceived this from the ſhore, they immediately ſent a boat aboard, with a meſſage beſeeching me to ſtay, and that

that if I would come aſhore, they would make me offers to my ſatisfaction. I told the meſſenger there was no truſting to what they ſaid; upon which, when he found me in earneſt, he preſented me with a bill of the dues and fees of the Inquiſition, and of the Alcalde Major for the two different times I had been in the iſland, in all amounting to about ſix pounds. I told the meſſenger to give my compliments to the Alcalde and the officers of the Inquiſition, and tell them I would pay them when ever I ſhould have the pleaſure of ſeeing them again: and ſo we departed. During the time the Alcalde Major and his companions lodged in the cave by the ſea-ſhore, they ſubſiſted on what proviſions we ſent aſhore to them, and on fiſh, for they could not remain in the ſhips by reaſon of ſea ſickneſs. At that time ſome of the fiſhermen catched in the bay a huge tortoiſe, or logger-head turtle, weighing about five hundred pounds, which they brought aſhore, and placed on its back upon a great ſtone, then cut its throat, from which the blood iſſued forth in a large ſmoaking ſtream. Having no veſſel at hand to receive it, the Alcalde and the reſt of the gentry catched as much of it as they could in their hands, and drank it off. When they obſerved our diſguſt at the ſight of ſuch a barbarous and beaſtly repaſt, they ſhook their heads, and told us it was an excellent remedy for the itch, and invited us to partake likewiſe; to the increaſe of our loathing, we obſerved their hands blotched with ſcabs and ulcers.

In this voyage we had on board, as an interpreter on the coaſt of Africa, a Barbary Jew.

Jew. When we came to Fuertaventura, I gave ſtrict orders to our crew not to tell the iſlanders who he was, for fear of an accident in caſe he ſhould venture aſhore; and before I went myſelf, I adviſed him to keep on board, for fear the Inquiſition ſhould get notice of, and detain him. But, notwithſtanding my caution, he went aſhore, and travelled to the village of Tunehe, where he paſſed for a catholic. As he ſpoke very good Spaniſh, the natives were very fond of converſing with him; and one of them happening to aſk him what countryman he was, he replied an Italian; the other aſked him if he had ever been in Rome, to which he readily anſwered in the affirmative: "And have you ever ſeen God's "Vicar upon earth?" "Yes, ſaid he, and "received his bleſſing alſo." Upon this they conducted him to their houſes, where they treated him with the beſt they had, and made him ſome preſents of Goffio-meal, kids, and fowls; but when ſome of our poor heretical ſailors went to that village, they never ſo much as deſired them to come into their houſes, or aſked them to eat or drink, until they ſhewed them money.

When I firſt came to the iſland of Lancerota, we anchored in the port of El Rio before-mentioned, from whence I immediately diſpatched a ſhepherd, whom I found there, to the Governor to give him notice of our arrival. He returned the ſame day, and brought with him one of the Governor's ſervants, with a ſaddled aſs, and an order for me wait on him at the village of Haria. Accordingly I went aſhore, and took a Tenerife boy along with me.

me. After we had aſcended the ſteep cliff by the narrow path-way, we found the ſaddled aſs waiting for us, upon which I mounted, and ſoon came to the village, where I found the Governor ſitting on a bench before the door of his houſe; who, on my approaching him, embraced and ſaluted me after the Spaniſh faſhion. He was dreſſed in a black taffety waiſtcoat, and breeches of the ſame ſtuff, white ſilk ſtockings, a linen night-cap laced, with a broad-brimmed hat ſlouched. This dreſs made him appear extremely tall, and he was in reality about ſix feet high, and ſeemed to be about fifty-five years of age. After ſitting ſome time with him at the door, he brought me into the houſe, and introduced me to ſome ladies, whom I took to be his wife and daughters. This was a favour of no ſmall account in this or any other of the Canary Iſlands. Although I left the ſhip before dinner-time, nobody aſked me if I had dined, ſo that I faſted that day from morning to night. There is a ſtrange ſort of delicacy among the gentry here, which is, that one muſt not aſk for any thing to eat, though ever ſo hungry or faint, in a ſtrange houſe; as a freedom of that kind would be looked on as the higheſt degree of vulgarity and ill-breeding: therefore, when I found an opportunity, I made a pretence of going out to ſpeak to my ſervant, but in reality to try to get ſome victuals privately. The Tenerife boy I found had ſuffered as much as myſelf: however, I gave him ſome money and ſent him to bring whatever he could find that was eatable; and in caſe he could procure nothing better, to bring me a lump of Goffo-

dough,

dough, or handful of meal: but his ſearch proved in vain, there being no ſuch thing as bread or any eatables ſold there. At laſt ſupper-time came, and the repaſt was, for that part of the world, not only a good one, but very elegant, conſiſting of many different diſhes. All the time we were at table, the ladies were very particular in their enquiries concerning the Engliſh women, their appearance, dreſs, behaviour, and amuſements. I replied, to all their queſtions as well as I could; but they were greatly ſhocked at the account I gave of their free behaviour; but when I informed them of the manners of the French ladies, they told me plainly that it was not poſſible there could be any virtuous women among them. After the ladies retired, the old gentleman magnified the power, wealth, and grandeur of the King of Spain, above all the Kings of the world. As an inſtance of the courage of the Spaniſh ſeamen, he ſaid it was a rule, if a Spaniſh man of war ſhould happen to meet two of the ſame force of any other nation, ſhe was not to run away, but was obliged to engage them; and if ſhe met three, the Captain might, if he pleaſed, endeavour to avoid them, but if he fled, it was always looked on as a daſtardly action. He added, that the Spaniards, in courage, temperance, honour, and zeal for the true religion, ſurpaſſed all the reſt of the world. With this and the like diſcourſe he entertained me for the ſpace of an hour; among other queſtions, he aſked me if England and France were in the ſame iſland, or if they were different iſlands. I entreated the honour of his company on board

board my ſhip at El Rio: he ſaid, he would come with all his heart, if my ſhip were at Porto de Naos, but that it would be indecent for a man of his quality to deſcend the cliff on all fours. Next morning I ſet out for El Rio, in company with the Stankero, or farmer of the King's duty on ſnuff and tobacco. We were mounted on aſſes, which ſet off with us on a full gallop, but did not long continue that pace. The Stankero hindered us much on the road, as he carried a fowling-piece with him, and ſhot at every bird he could ſee, without alighting, and we were obliged to wait for him. He told me, the only pleaſure he had in life was to take his gun in the morning, mount his aſs, and go a-ſhooting. When we came to the ſteep cliff, one of the gentlemen would not alight, but ordered his ſervant to lead his aſs down the path; but the ſervant being wiſer than himſelf, with great difficulty diſſuaded him from this piece of ſtate, by repreſenting to him the impoſſibility of doing it without breaking his neck: ſo fearful are theſe people of demeaning themſelves by uſing their legs.

The Stankero and his friends came on board, and bought ſome goods of us, which they were to pay for in orchilla-weed. After the concluſion of the bargain, we entertained them in the beſt manner we could, for three days that they remained on board, waiting for the orchilla-weed, which they had ſent for from the other end of the iſland. Their ſervants told us, that their maſters had never lived ſo well in their lives, and that one of the gentlemen in particular never

taſted

taſted fleſh meat at home: however, we were perfectly ſenſible that this did not proceed from any natural antipathy, or temperance; for with us he eat, or rather devoured, ſix pounds of meat at every meal.

WHILE we remained at El Rio, our Carpenter and Boatſwain ſet out together, after breakfaſt, to viſit the village of Haria, and being ſtrangers to the cuſtoms of the place, neglected to take proviſions with them. When they got on ſhore, the firſt thing they did, ſeamen-like, was to look out for a public houſe; but their labour proved in vain, and therefore they went into ſeveral houſes, in hopes that ſomebody would be courteous enough to offer them ſomething to eat; but, though they found the people ready enough to talk with and aſk queſtions of them, yet no one offered to ſupply their wants. At laſt, ſeeing ſome ladies and people at the door of the Governor's houſe, they ſauntered towards them, in expectation that their curioſity might induce them to call to them; ſo far they were right, for they aſked them a multitude of queſtions, but never enquired if they were either hungry or thirſty: however, one of the ſeamen, thinking to give them a hint of their neceſſity, begged the favour of a draught of water, which was readily brought them, but neither victuals or wine; ſo they found they had nothing left, but to make the beſt of their way back to the ſhip. In their road they met with a man riding on a camel, and being quite faint with faſting, they agreed with him, for a real, to alight, and let them ride on the camel to the brow of the cliff. When they were

were got about half way thither, the camel chanced to ſhake himſelf, and the ſailors, wholly unuſed to, and not expecting ſuch a ſudden motion, came tumbling headlong to the ground. The driver, in a ſurprize, aſked them what was the matter, and endeavoured to perſuade them to remount, but in vain; and when he demanded the hire of the beaſt, they told him it was well they did not break his bones, and ſo walked off: the driver having no one near to aſſiſt him, did not offer to purſue them.

THESE ſtories may appear very trifling and impertinent to the reader; but I relate them to give ſome idea of the manners of thoſe people. When we enquired of them the price of any thing, ſuch as ſheep, fowls, or hogs, this was their common reply, "To the na-"tives of the country, we ſell them at ſuch "a price; but to ſtrangers we cannot ſell "them under ſo much more." This is alone ſufficient to ſhew their inhoſpitable and brutal diſpoſition.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of the Government and Trade of Lancerota and Fuertaventura, &c.

ALTHOUGH all the Canary Iſlands are ſubject to the crown of Spain, yet the natives of the two iſlands which we are now deſcribing, and thoſe of Gomera and Hierro, hold not their lands of the crown, but of the deſcendants of the houſe of Herrera.

CHIEF part of the power and juriſdiction originally poſſeſſed by the proprietors of theſe iſlands, was taken from them and annexed to the crown; probably on account of their abuſe of ſuch an extenſive authority; and the government is now inveſted in an Alcalde Major, and a Sargento Major, otherwiſe called Governador de las Armas. The firſt of thoſe officers is the head of the civil, and the other of the military government. From the deciſion of the Alcalde Major there is an appeal to the Royal Audience in the iſland of Canaria: and the Sargento Major receives his orders from the Governor-general of the Canary Iſlands, who commonly reſides in Teneriſe. There are no ſtanding forces kept here; but there is a militia, properly regulated, and divided into companies, to each of which there is a Captain, Lieutenant, and Enſign.

Enſign. The Sargento Major is Colonel, or chief of the whole, and takes care to ſee that their arms, &c. are kept in proper order, that the companies may be raiſed at a ſhort warning; for ſome time after the conqueſt of theſe iſlands, the natives were frequently diſturbed by Algerine corſairs, and eſpecially thoſe of Lancerota, where a fleet of thoſe people landed, and carried off no leſs than one thouſand ſix hundred and forty-eight perſons *, being almoſt all the inhabitants of the iſland. The Governor gave me the following account of this affair. When the natives found that the Algerines were too ſtrong for them, they fled into the caves in the iſland. The main body of them took refuge in a very ſpacious one that runs above a mile in length underground. The Algerines purſued them cloſely, but were afraid to enter the cave, and therefore contented themſelves with cloſely blocking up its mouth, thinking to oblige the iſlanders to ſurrender for want of food. But in this they were deceived; for there was a private paſſage at the other end, by which the natives uſed to go forth in ſearch of proviſions. Unfortunately one of them, who was upon this buſineſs, was taken by the Moors, who promiſed him his life and liberty if he would diſcover to them by what means the people ſhut up in the cave, procured ſuſtenance. The priſoner, dreading immediate death if he did not comply, informed them of the truth; whereupon they ſtopped up the other entry, and thus compelled thoſe within to ſurrender:

* Gramaye ſays this happened in the year 1618.

and

and notwithſtanding a fleet of Spaniſh men of war was then cruiſing in the Streights of Gibraltar, to intercept them, they arrived ſafe at Algiers, with their priſoners and booty. The King of Spain was pleaſed afterwards to ranſom theſe poor people, and ſend them back to their native country. In thoſe days Lancerota was but thinly inhabited, but it is now quite otherwiſe. Some time about the year 1748, the Algerines made another deſcent upon this iſland. The natives, who were now better acquainted with the manner of defending themſelves, did not offer to oppoſe their landing, but ſuffered them to advance into the country, when, getting between the corſairs and their boats, they ſurrounded and cut every one of them in pieces, except only thoſe who were left to guard the boats. Since that time the Algerines have never attempted to land in any of the Canary Iſlands. In the year 1596, a ſmall ſquadron of Engliſh ſhips, commanded by the Earl of Cumberland, came to anchor near Port de Naos. This ſquadron was going to attack the Spaniſh ſettlements in the Weſt Indies; but the Earl having intelligence from ſome of his ſeamen (who had been priſoners in the iſland) of a Marquis reckoned to be worth an hundred thouſand pounds, who lived in the town of Cayas, and who was Lord of Lancerota and Fuertaventura; he determined to touch there, and ſeize him, in order to procure a good ſum for his ranſom. Theſe men aſſured him, that they knew the place ſo well, that they could conduct him by night to the Marquis's houſe. But when the fleet came off the iſland, they could not, even in broad daylight,

light, ſhew him the proper place for landing; however, he anchored with his ſhips near Port de Naos, ſent five or ſix hundred ſoldiers aſhore, under the command of Sir John Berkley, who purſued the natives for ſome time, but without being able to overtake them, they were ſo ſwift-footed; and when he came to the town, he found nothing left but a ſmall quantity of cheeſe and wine, and whole reams of popiſh bulls and pardons. The caſtle or fort was abandoned, though it was ſo ſtrong that twenty men could have defended it againſt five hundred. And now as the Marquis, who was the chief object of their deſcent, was no where to be found, the troops reimbarked, after having ſuſtained ſome loſs by ſickneſs, from drinking too plentifully of the wine which they found in the town.

DURING the war between England and Spain which began in the year 1739, an Engliſh privateer came into the bay of Las Playas, in Fuertaventura, and landed a conſiderable body of men, who marched into the iſland. But they had not proceeded far, when a multitude of the natives, chiefly armed with clubs and ſtones, attacked them with great fury, killed the greateſt part of them, and made the reſt priſoners, who were ſoon after ſent to Tenerife. Six weeks after this, ſome other Engliſh privateers landed two or three hundred men at the ſame place, and marched inland with colours flying and drums beating. The natives, enraged to find the iſland diſturbed again in ſo ſhort a time, determined to give theſe ſecond invaders no quarter; and ſo aſſembling together, fell upon them. The

Engliſh however received their attack with great bravery, and killed many of them; but finding it utterly impoſſible to defend themſelves any longer againſt ſuch numbers (the natives being twenty to one) threw down their arms and begged for quarter, but in vain, for the exaſperated iſlanders inhumanly butchered every one of them.

In all probability, the Engliſh muſt have been deceived in their notions of the number of inhabitants on the iſland; for it appears, when viewed from the ſea, to be uninhabited and deſolate.

In the late war with Spain, two privateers, called the Lord Anſon and Hawke, ſailed on a cruiſe among the Azores and Canary Iſlands. The Hawke being near Porto de Naos, in Lancerota, and ſeeing ſome veſſels lying in the port, ſhe attempted to get at them, but could not, for nobody on board knew the paſſages through the rocks to the harbour. Some time after ſhe was joined by her conſort, the Lord Anſon, when they jointly attacked the caſtle, and ſilenced its guns. But not finding the entrance of the harbour, they went about a league to the leeward, where they landed an hundred men. The natives aſſembled to the number of about five hundred, and came down to the ſea-ſide to attack them, placing a number of camels in the front, to ſerve as a breaſt-work againſt the enemy's fire; but this did them no ſervice, for the ſeamen ſoon broke the camels, and turned them upon their maſters; who, ſeeing the reſolution of the invaders, began to fly in great diſorder, and left many of their cloaks behind, and about five

five or six men dead on the spot. The seamen, on this occasion, behaved with great prudence, for they would not pursue the fugitives inland, but marched along-shore to Porto de Naos, their boats keeping close by them, to which they might retreat at pleasure. In their march they were frequently fired upon by the natives, who skulked behind the rocks; but by sending out small parties of five or six men each, they were soon dislodged, and obliged to fly. When the privateer's people came to Porto de Naos, they found the place deserted, and every thing of value carried off. And as the vessels which the Hawke wanted to cut out, had made their escape before she was joined by the Lord Anson, the men embarked, without attempting any thing against the castle. This latter fired several shot at the ships, but was quickly silenced by their great guns. In this expedition the English lost only one man, which was the Captain of the Lord Anson, who was killed on board his own ship by a shot from the castle.

ALTHOUGH these islands are little esteemed by the Spanish government, yet in fact they are of the utmost value; for if they were once subdued by any other nation, Palma and Tenerife would fall of course, because they are supplied with corn from Lancerota and Fuertaventura. Besides, the ports in Lancerota would always be convenient retreats for the cruising ships of an enemy, where they might careen, and be supplied with provisions.

THE exports from hence are confined wholly to the other islands: these are wheat, bar-

ley, maize, cattle, fowls, cheese, orchilla-weed, and goats skins, salt and some salt-fish; the two last are only exported from Lancerota. The wheat here is small-grained, but very hard, clear, and good: it sells always in Tenerife at a higher price than either English or other European wheat, by one fifth. The first wheat sown in this island was brought thither by Diego de Herrera, from Barbary. About eight years ago, they exported a number of camels from Fuertaventura to Jamaica and other parts of the English West Indies. But so soon as it was known at Canaria and Tenerife, that English ships came to Fuertaventura and carried away camels, the General and Royal Audience prohibited that trade, for fear of losing the breed, and raising the price of those animals.

THE asses brought to Fuertaventura increased so fast, that they ran wild among the mountains, and did so much damage to the natives, by eating their corn and other grain, that, in the year 1591, they were obliged to assemble all the inhabitants and dogs in the island, to endeavour to destroy them; accordingly they killed no less than fifteen hundred. Since that time there has not been any more in the island, than sufficient to supply the inhabitants.

THE exportation of corn is most impolitickly prohibited from this island to any place, except the rest of the islands; by which means in a year of great plenty, it becomes of so little value, as scarcely to pay for the expence of cutting it down. This consequently makes them indifferent about raising more than what they

they can consume themselves, or sell in the other islands; so that in a bad year, the islanders starve for want, especially the inhabitants of Teneriffe, if they have not the good fortune to be supplied from Europe.

THE imports here are almost all from the other islands, especially from Teneriffe, which is the centre of trade for all the Canary Islands. They consist in English woollen goods and German linens, both of the coarsest fabrics; brandy, wine, oil, fruit, planks and other sorts of timber, barks and fishing-boats, bees wax, household furniture, tobacco and snuff, soap, candles, and a considerable quantity of cash, which they receive in the ballance of trade; part of which goes in payment of rent to the proprietors of the lands; and the rest to Gran Canaria, to support the charge of their law-suits; for the natives of all the Canary Islands are generally extremely litigious.

No ship goes immediately from Europe to those islands, because the consumption of European commodities in them is so slow and inconsiderable, that it would not be worth while. With proper management, a ship of any nation in Europe, at war with Spain, might touch at Lancerota and Fuertaventura, pass for a neutral vessel, and be supplied with provisions; for the natives have no intercourse with foreigners, therefore they cannot distinguish an Englishman from a Hollander, Dane, or Swede; but whoever would pass for a Frenchman, must go to mass, otherwise he will be discovered.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Iſland of Gran Canaria.

HITHERTO I have been deſcribing the iſlands that are almoſt deſerts when compared with the fertile and pleaſant one of Canaria, which, for the excellent temperature of its air, and the plenty of good water, trees, herbs, and delicious fruits that are found thereon, well deſerves the name of the Fortunate Iſland.

THE north-eaſt point of Canaria lies weſt from the ſouth-weſt end of Fuertaventura, eighteen leagues diſtance: in clear weather, any of thoſe iſlands may be eaſily ſeen from the other. Canaria is about fourteen leagues in length, nine in breadth, and thirty-five in circumference, reckoning the length from the north-eaſt point ſouthward unto the point Arganeguin, and the breadth from the port of Agaete, on the weſt ſide of the iſland, to that of Gando, on the eaſt. The inland part, or centre, is exceeding high, and full of lofty mountains, which tower ſo far above the clouds, as to ſtop the current of the north-eaſt wind that generally blows here; ſo that when this wind blows hard on the north ſide of the mountains, it is either quite calm on the other ſide, or a gentle breeze blows upon it from the ſouth-weſt. Theſe calms and eddy-winds,

winds, occaſioned by the height of the mountains above the atmoſphere, extend twenty or twenty-five leagues beyond them, to the ſouth-weſt. There are calms beyond or to the leeward of ſome of the reſt of the iſlands as well as Canaria; for thoſe of Tenerife extend fifteen leagues into the ocean; the calms off Gomera, ten; and thoſe off Palma, thirty. I have been frequently in all the calms of the iſlands, excepting thoſe of Palma; and from my experience of them, I may venture to ſay, that it is extremely dangerous for ſmall veſſels, or open boats to venture within them, when the wind blows hard without. It is true, indeed, the wind raiſes the waves of the ſea to a mountainous height; yet thoſe waves follow each other in a regular ſucceſſion; for were they to fall confuſedly one againſt another, no ſhip would be able to ſail on the ocean. But in a ſtorm, the wind driving the ſea before it, each wave gives place to the one which follows; whereas in the calms of the Canary Iſlands, the ſea not moving forward in the ſame direction with the ſea without, but being as it were ſtagnate, or at reſt, reſiſts the waves that fall in upon it from without; and this reſiſtance cauſes them to break juſt in the ſame manner as the billows break upon the ſea-ſhore, but with leſs violence on account of the different nature of the reſiſtance. This breaking of the waves is only on the verge of, or juſt entering into the calms, for within them the water is ſmooth and pleaſant.

Upon firſt coming into the calms, the waves may be ſeen foaming and boiling like a pot, and breaking in all directions. When a veſſel

comes amongſt them, ſhe is ſhaken and beaten by the waves on all ſides, in ſuch a manner that one would imagine ſhe could not withſtand it; however, this confuſion does not laſt long. The beſt way to manage a ſhip entering the calms, is immediately to haul up the courſes, and diligently attend the braces, to catch every puff of wind that offers, in order to puſh the ſhip into them as ſoon as poſſible. The crew muſt not think it ſtrange, to be obliged to brace about the yards every two or three minutes, according as the wind veers and hauls; but after a ſhip is once fairly entered the calms, ſhe will either find a dead calm and ſmooth water, or a pleaſant and conſtant breeze at ſouth or ſouth-weſt, according as the wind blows without, to which this eddy-wind, as I may call it, always blows in an oppoſite direction.

On the north-eaſt end of Canaria is a peninſula, about two leagues in circumference. The iſthmus by which it is connected with the main iſland, is about two miles in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth at the narroweſt part. On each ſide of this iſthmus is a bay, which is expoſed on the north-weſt ſide to the ſwell of the ſea, and therefore an unfit road for ſhipping; but ſmall barks get in between a ledge of rocks and the ſhore, and lie there ſmooth and ſecure from all winds and weather. Here the natives of the iſland repair their ſmall veſſels.

On the other ſide of the iſthmus is a ſpacious ſandy bay, called by ſome Porto de Luz, and by others Porto de Iſletes, from ſome ſteep rocks, or iſlands, at the entrance of the bay

bay towards the north-eaſt. This is a good road for ſhipping of any burthen, with all winds except the ſouth-eaſt, to which it is expoſed; but that wind (which is not common here) ſeldom blows ſo hard as to endanger ſhipping.

THE landing-place is in the very bight or bottom of the bay, where the water is generally ſo ſmooth, that a boat may lie broadſide to the ſhore, without danger. At this landing-place ſtands a hermitage, or chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, and a caſtle, mounted with a few guns, but of no ſtrength. From thence along ſhore to the eaſtward, at the diſtance of a league, is the city of Palmas, the capital of the iſland: between which, and the above-mentioned caſtle are two other forts, mounted with guns; theſe have no garriſons, except a few invalids. At the other end of the city is another caſtle called St. Pedro. None of all theſe are of any ſtrength.

SHIPPING that diſcharge their cargoes at Palmas, generally in good weather anchor within half a mile of the town, for the quicker diſpatch; but that place is not a good road. The city of Palmas is of no ſtrength to oppoſe an attack; but it is large, and contains ſeveral fine buildings, particularly the cathedral of St. Anne, with many churches, convents of Friars of all orders, and nunneries. The private houſes here are in general good, being all built of ſtone. The city is divided into two parts, which have a communication with each other by a bridge, thrown over a ſmall ſtream of water. The number of in-

habitants in Palmas I gueſs to be about ſix thouſand.

THE next port of any conſequence is Gando, ſituate on the ſouth-eaſt part of the iſland. I never was there, but am informed it is a good port for ſhipping, with all winds except the ſouth. There you may be ſupplied with good water and other refreſhments.

GAETE, or Agaete, on the north-weſt part of the iſland, is a port with a caſtle for its defence. It is frequented only by boats that carry proviſions, &c. from thence to Santa Cruz in Tenerife. The country near it is well watered, and abounds with fruit-trees. From Gaete there is a high road to the city of Palmas.

THE whole coaſt of Canaria, excepting at theſe ports, is generally inacceſſible to boats or veſſels, by reaſon of the breaking of the ſea upon it: even the leeward, or ſouth-weſt part of the iſland is expoſed to this inconveniency, although it is ſheltered by the land from the ſwell of the trade-wind.

IT is the ſame on the ſhores of all the Canary Iſlands, eſpecially at the full and change of the moon, excepting thoſe of Lancerota and Fuertaventura. Yet even to leeward of the latter of theſe, the ſhore is ſeldom free from ſurf. I imagine it will be no eaſy matter to account properly for this phænomenon.

THERE are no inland cities, or large towns, in Canaria; but many villages, the chief of which are Galdar and Telde.

ALTHOUGH this iſland is high and mountainous, yet between the mountains, and near the ſea-coaſt, there are many plains, and more level

level ground than in any of the Canary Islands to the westward of it.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Climate of Canaria, its Weather, Produce, &c.

THE temperature of the air is no where more delightful than in the island of Canaria. The heat in summer seldom exceeds that which generally prevails in England in the months of July and August, and the coldest part of the winter is not sharper than with us about the end of May in a backward season. The same sort of winds blow here, at the same periods, as at Lancerota and Fuertaventura; but the northerly wind is not so strong, being only a gentle breeze that cools the air so as to render it agreeably temperate. The heavens here are seldom overcast, the sky being almost continually serene and free from storms and thunder. The only disagreeable weather is when the south-east winds come upon the island, from the great desert of Africa; but these rarely happen, and do not last long. They are very hot, dry, and stifling, and do much damage to the fruits of the earth by their pernicious quality, and also by bringing clouds of locusts, that devour every green thing where they alight. In the mountains, the weather is different from what

I have

I have been describing; for there it is very cold in winter, and the tops of them are uninhabitable, by reason of the snow that falls there in that season, in great abundance.

To add to the excellent qualities of this climate, the air is exceeding wholesome, and the natives enjoy health and longevity beyond any people in the world. I have had opportunities of observing that when they go with Europeans to hot unhealthy climates, they are the first that fall sick and die.

This island is well watered, and abounds with wood of various kinds: almost every thing that is planted here, will thrive; and the pine, palm, wild-olive, laurel, poplar, elder, bressos (a sort of brush-wood), dragon-tree (that yields gum), lena nuessa, or lignum Rhodium, the aloes-shrub, Indian fig, or prickly pear, and tubayba, grow spontaneously and without cultivation. The latter is a shrub, whose branches have no leaves except at the extremities. When this shrub is slit with a knife, or beaten with a stick, it yields a glutinous substance, of a white colour. The euphorbium-shrub grows here to a large size, and in great plenty: I cannot imagine the reason why the natives do not extract the juice, and use it for the bottoms of their boats and vessels, instead of pitch; I am persuaded it would answer better, and be an effectual preservative against the worms. The tarrahala is a sort of yew, or wild-pine; the retama, a withered shrub without leaves, not unlike the branch of a vine, and some of it grows to the thickness of a man's wrist. There are many others besides these, which I cannot describe.

All

All the large trees, except the palm, that are natural to the iſland, grow on the mountains near the clouds, which deſcending upon them towards the evening, furniſh them with moiſture.

As to fruit, here are the almond, walnut, cheſnut, apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, plum, mulberry, fig, banana, date, orange, lemon, citron, lime, pomegranate, and in ſhort all the American and European fruits, except the anana, or pine-apple, of which I think there are none in theſe iſlands. Of grain they have wheat, barley, and maize or Indian corn; but peas, beans, and garravanſas * are ſcarce and dear: melons of different ſorts, potatoes, batatas, yams, pompions, the beſt onions in the world, and many other kinds of roots are found in plenty here, and all good in their kind: cabbages and ſallads are not wanting. In ſhort, in all the Canary Iſlands weſtward of Fuertaventura, nature amply rewards the labourer for his toil in cultivating the ground.

ALTHOUGH there is more level and arable land in Canaria than in any of the iſlands to the weſtward of it, yet it bears no manner of proportion to the ſtony, rocky, and barren ground, for I imagine the firſt is to the laſt as one to ſeven. Yet if the peaſants had ſuch liberty and ſecurity for their property as thoſe of England have, they could, by a little induſtry and expence, turn the courſe of many rivulets of water upon their barren grounds, and thereby render them very fruitful.

* A kind of horſe-beans, written generally Caravanças.

BUT

BUT the great check to induſtry in cultivating the lands here, is the imprudent conduct of their government, which prohibits the exportation of proviſions in a plentiful ſeaſon, and fixes a price upon them in the iſland. This laſt, though done with a good deſign, is a moſt pernicious practice, and tends directly to make a ſcarcity *.

THE moſt fertile part of Canaria is the mountain of Doramas, ſituated about two leagues from the city of Palmas; it is ſhaded by groves of different kinds of fragrant trees, whoſe lofty boughs are ſo thickly interwoven, as to exclude the rays of the ſun. The rills that water theſe ſhady groves, the whiſpering of the breeze among the trees, and the melody of the Canary-birds, form a moſt delightful concert. When a perſon is in one of theſe inchanting ſolitudes, he cannot fail of calling to remembrance the fine things the ancients have written of the Fortunate Iſlands.

* When a famine happens in any country, and the poor ſtarve for want of food, why ſhould the proprietors of corn be robbed, by being compelled to ſell their grain below its real value? For every commodity is juſt worth what it will fetch. Why do not the rich, in ſuch a caſe (if they would be humane at their own coſt) give money to the poor, to enable them to purchaſe it at the current price? Does the government in any country compel people, in a plentiful year, to buy more corn than they can conſume, in order that the merchants, who have a great quantity on hand, may be no loſers? Yet this is juſt as reaſonable, as obliging the merchants or farmers to lower the price of their grain.

In contraſt to this charming ſcene, the upper part of the iſland is totally barren and deſolate, producing neither graſs or ſhrub, except a few of the above-mentioned retamas; for it projects far above the clouds, and therefore receives neither dew or rain, but is expoſed to a thin, dry, parching wind, that generally blows from the weſtern quarter, in direct oppoſition to the trade-wind below, or under the clouds: in the night this weſterly wind blows hard, but lulls in the day-time. In the winter-ſeaſon the top of this iſland is inacceſſible, being covered with ſnow.

The prodigious quantity of calcined ſtones, aſhes, and lava that cover the greateſt part of all the Canary Iſlands, disfigure them much, and render the ground unpleaſant. The volcanos from whence this matter proceeded, and which formerly burned, may be diſcerned in all quarters of this and the reſt of the iſlands; as alſo the channels made by the fiery ſtreams that flowed from them. Thoſe are full of aſhes, cinders, and pumice-ſtone of a heavier kind than that which we bring from Naples. I have not heard of any volcano burning in Canaria ſince the conqueſt. Certainly if ever the firſt inhabitants of thoſe iſlands abandoned them, and went in queſt of new habitations (as ſome maintain) it muſt be owing to the dread they had of thoſe moſt terrible eruptions.

The wine of Canaria is good, but has not ſuch a body as that of Tenerife, and therefore not ſo fit for exportation; yet many pipes of it are annually ſent to the Spaniſh Weſt Indies.

THERE is no oil made in this or the other islands, notwithstanding olives have been planted in Canaria. They grow indeed, and bear fruit, but not to so great perfection as in Spain, Barbary, and other countries. Much sugar was formerly made here, but the great demand for the wines and brandies of this island in the Spanish West Indies, stopped the culture of canes, the natives finding it more advantageous to vest the produce of their wines at the Havannah in sugar, than to raise it in their own country. Honey abounds in Canaria, which is good, but of a black colour.

THE animals here are camels, horses, asses, a few mules, bullocks, sheep, goats, hogs, rabbits, fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks, partridges, crows, and Canary-birds, with some others of the same size.

CANARIA is sometimes pestered with locusts, which are brought thither by south-east winds from the desert, and devour every green thing wherever they alight; but seldom visit any of the Canary Islands, except this and Hierro, which are situated more southerly than the rest. A few years ago, such an immense quantity came to the south-east part of Canaria, that they covered the fourth part of the island, and did infinite damage.

LIZARDS abound in this and all the other islands; but we find no snakes, serpents, scorpions, or other venomous creatures, excepting the fore-mentioned spider of Lancerota, and a kind of viper peculiar to the island of Gomera; which, however, I cannot find, upon the strictest enquiry, to be at all hurtful.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Deſcription of the Iſland of Tenerife.

POINT Anaga, or Nago, the north-eaſt end of Tenerife, bears north-weſt, about ſixteen leagues diſtant from the north-weſt part of Canaria; but from the ſaid part of Canaria to the neareſt part of Tenerife, the diſtance is not above twelve leagues. This iſland is almoſt triangular, the three ſides being nearly equal, and each about twelve leagues in length. In the centre is the famous Pike of Tenerife, called by the ancient inhabitants Teyde, which name it ſtill retains with the preſent natives, who call it El Pico de Teyde, i. e. the Pike of Teyde.

COMING in with the iſland, in clear weather, this Pike may be eaſily diſcerned at the diſtance of one hundred and twenty miles, and in ſailing from it, at one hundred and fifty miles diſtance; it then appears like a thin blue vapour or ſmoke, very little darker than the ſky. At a further diſtance the ſhade diſappears, and is not diſtinguiſhable from the azure of the firmament. Before loſing ſight of this towering mountain, it ſeems a conſiderable height above the horizon, although by its diſtance, and the ſpherical figure of the earth, all the reſt of the iſland (the upper part of which is exceeding high) is ſunk beneath

neath the horizon; but in general in ſailing towards Tenerife, when the trade-wind blows, the iſland appears as an hazineſs of the ſky, or a cloud, till within the diſtance of five or ſix leagues, and then the points of the land are firſt conſpicuous, and ſhew like land.

At a ſmall diſtance from the north-eaſt point of the iſland, called Punto de Nago, are ſome high perpendicular rocks, and five or ſix leagues from thence, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the iſland, is the bay or harbour of Santa Cruz, the moſt frequented port of any in the Canary Iſlands: the beſt road for ſhipping here, is between the middle of the town and a fort or caſtle, about a mile to the northward of it. In all that ſpace, ſhips anchor from a cable's length diſtance from the ſhore, in ſix, ſeven, and eight fathoms water, to half a mile, in twenty-five or thirty fathoms. When a ſhip lies any time in the road, it is neceſſary to buoy her cables, as the ground is in ſome places foul, and conſequently they will be apt to rub and ſpoil. Here ſhips, if moored with good cables and anchors, may lie ſecure in all winds, although the bay is expoſed and open to thoſe which blow from the north-eaſt, eaſt, and ſouth-eaſt: however, it is not above once in the ſpace of four or five years that they blow ſo hard as to cauſe any conſiderable damage.

Some years ago, almoſt all the ſhipping in the road were driven on ſhore by one of theſe gales: ſome Engliſh ſhips were at that time in the bay, the crews of which prudently cut away their maſts, and ſo rode out the ſtorm ſafely. On that occaſion ſome Spaniſh ſeamen

men there, publicly declared they saw the devil in the height of the storm very busy in assisting the heretics.

In the middle of the town is a mole, built at a vast expence, for the convenience of landing. It runs to the northward, and the outermost part of it turns toward the shore. In mild weather goods are landed at a creek among the rocks, near the custom-house, at the distance of a stone's cast to the southward of the mole.

In going from the mole into the town, there is a square fort on the left hand, named St. Philip's, which is the principal one in the bay: to the northward of it along shore, are some forts or batteries, mounted with guns; the most considerable of which is called Passo Alto. Near it is a steep rocky den, or valley, beginning at the sea-shore, and running a long way inland, which would render any attack of an enemy on that quarter extremely difficult. There is another fort along shore, to the northward of this.

At the south end of the town are some batteries; and beyond them, close to the shore there is a fort called St. Juan. All the sea-shore, from thence to the southward, is generally inaccessible, being naturally fenced with rocks, on which the surf breaks almost continually. All these forts are mounted with cannon, and joined to each other by a thick stone wall, which begins near the rocky den, and continues, with little interruption, to fort St. Juan. This wall is only breast-high within, but higher without, facing the sea. The entry to the town from the sea is at the mole, where

where there is an open paſſage between the wall and St. Philip's caſtle, which commands and guards this entry.

Santa Cruz is a large town, containing ſeveral churches, three convents of Friars, an hoſpital, and the beſt conſtructed private buildings of any of the Canary Iſlands: it is in fact the capital of them all, though the epiſcopal ſee and courts of judicature are in the city of Palmas in the iſland of Canaria; but the Governor-general of the iſlands reſides always in Santa Cruz, where there is continually a great concourſe of foreigners, as being the centre of the Canary trade with Europe and America.

The number of inhabitants I imagine to be about ſix or ſeven thouſand. The water they drink is conveyed in open wooden troughs, or ſpouts, into the town, from a ſpring ſituated beyond the above-mentioned den or valley. Beſides theſe there are, in many houſes of the town, pits of water, which ſerve very well for the purpoſes of cookery, &c. The town is not fortified on the land ſide, as no danger is apprehended from that quarter. All the country near Santa Cruz is dry, ſtony, and barren.

About four leagues to the ſouthward of Santa Cruz, cloſe to the ſea, is a cave, with a church or chapel, called Our Lady of Candelaria, in which is an image of the Virgin Mary, held in as much reverence here, as the image of the great goddeſs Diana was at Epheſus; and this chapel is endowed with ſo many ornaments, that it is the richeſt place in all the ſeven iſlands.

At

At a certain ſeaſon of the year, almoſt all the inhabitants of the iſland go thither in pilgrimage. I have met troops of young girls on their way, ſinging as they went, in a very agreeable manner, the praiſes of the Virgin, and the miraculous deeds of the image. It would be in vain to endeavour to undeceive the natives here, with reſpect to the many incredible ſtories related concerning this image; for, from the prieſt to the meaneſt peaſant, every one appears to be convinced of its efficacious mediation and interceſſion with heaven. I have heard ſome Canary ſeamen declare, that when they were returning from the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, and in imminent danger of periſhing in a hard gale of wind, they ſaw Our Lady of Candelaria, in the night-time, in the height of the ſtorm, aſſiſting them to reef and furl the ſails, &c. And moreover they aſſured me, that when they came home to Tenerife, they were told that in the morning after the very night in which they were ſo miraculouſly aſſiſted by the Virgin, ſhe was ſeen in the church of Candelaria with her cloaths and hair wet with the ſpray of the ſea that came upon her while employed in that friendly office.

The account given of the firſt appearance of this image in the iſland, as related by the author of the Diſcovery and Conqueſt, and which perfectly agrees with what we are now told by the moſt intelligent of the natives, is as follows: "The exact time when this "image firſt came to the iſland is not known; "however, there is a confuſed rumour that it "was near an hundred years before the con-

"queſt:

" queſt: according to the accounts of the oldeſt " inhabitants, it was about the year 1390. " Cloſe to the ſea-ſhore, near the mouth of " a barranco or den, in a deſert part of the " iſland, four leagues diſtant from the city of " St. Chriſtobal de la Laguna, two ſhepherds " driving their flocks towards a cave on the " other ſide of the den, in order to milk " them as uſual, they obſerved the goats to " ſtop and turn back affrighted. The ſhep- " herds immediately hollowed and whiſtled, " in order to make them go forward, but in " vain, for the goats turned out of the way " and ran back; whereupon one of the ſhep- " herds, ſuſpecting that ſome one was lying " in wait, in order to ſteal ſome of the flock, " ſtepped forward to ſee what was the matter, " where he was ſurpriſed to behold the holy " image ſtanding upon a great ſtone at the " mouth of the den. Drawing nearer, he " viewed it with fear and admiration, not be- " ing accuſtomed to ſee any one in ſuch a " ſtrange and uncommon dreſs. However, " at laſt he diſmiſſed his fears, and conclud- " ing it was a woman, he made ſigns to her " to get out of the way, that the flocks might " paſs: and this he did becauſe it was not " cuſtomary in Tenerife for a man when he " met a woman alone on the road, or in a " ſolitary place, to ſpeak to her, but on the " contrary to turn aſide. As the flocks could " not go to the cave without firſt paſſing the " mouth of the den, therefore he made ſigns " to her; but finding ſhe never moved, " though he waited ſome time, he was pro- " voked at her indecent and obſtinate behavi-

" our,

" our, and took up a ſtone to throw at her, " but could not caſt it out of his hand, and " his arm, which was lifted up to throw the " ſtone, continued immoveable in that poſ- " ture, and with great pain to him.

" THE other ſhepherd, ſeeing what paſſed, " went boldly up to the image, examined it, " and with a tavona, or ſharp flint, endea- " voured to cut off its hand; but inſtead of " effecting this, in the attempt he cut his own " hand in ſuch a manner, that a ſtream of " blood guſhed out. Blinded with wrath a- " gainſt the image for what had befallen him, " he made another attempt to cut off its " hand, but in vain, for inſtead of executing " his purpoſe, he cut his own hand a ſecond " time; ſo that the ſhepherds remained, the " one with his arm ſtretched out, and the o- " ther ſorely wounded. They concluded at " laſt, that the image came from Heaven; " and going to the King of Guimar, inform- " ed him of what had happened: who, when " he ſaw them ſtanding before him in that " condition, believed what they had related, " and ordered the council to aſſemble at the " Tagoror, or Place of Judgment. The re- " ſult of that council was, that the King and " all the members went, with the whole peo- " ple of the diſtrict of Guimar, to the place " where the ſhepherds ſaw the image. There " they found it ſtill remaining in the ſame " poſture: the Guanches were greatly ſtruck " with admiration and reverence, when they " beheld the gravity and majeſty of its ap- " pearance; but no one dared to touch it, for

" fear

" fear of being punished after the same man-
" ner as the two shepherds were.

" The King at last ordered these two men
" to approach the image with reverence, and
" carry it to his house. They took hold of
" it accordingly, and immediately upon touch-
" ing it, were intirely healed, to the no small
" astonishment of the spectators.

" The King being now convinced that the
" image was sent from Heaven, declared it
" was too sacred to be carried by peasants, and
" therefore went himself, with some of his
" nobles, and taking it up with fear and re-
" verence, they carried it in this manner a-
" bout the distance of a musquet shot, when
" it became so exceeding heavy, that they
" could proceed with it no further. When
" the King and his attendants perceived this,
" they fell on their knees before the image,
" humbly beseeching it to let them place it
" where they intended; upon which it made
" a sign, and they lifted it up again, finding
" it quite light, and proceeded to a cave, which
" was the King's store-room or pantry, and
" is about half a league distant from the bar-
" ranco where the image first appeared. Hav-
" ing brought it thither, they placed it on
" some goats skins, where it remained, and
" performed many wonderful miracles, as it
" still continues to do. On the spot where
" the image made a sign for the natives to go
" on, the Christians have built an hermitage,
" called Nuestra Senora del Soccoro, i. e. Our
" Lady of Succour.

" The

" The Guanches * relate, that by means " of this holy image, many miracles were " wrought in the time of paganism, before " the conquest: and the Kings of the island " set apart a man and a woman to look after " the image, and keep it clean. The natives " never approached it without a present of " some sheep, the number of which increas- " ed prodigiously: they were called the sacred " sheep; and no one was allowed to approach " them, but the above-mentioned man and " woman.

" Every year, on the Eve of the Purifi- " cation of Our Lady, a great number of " lights are seen going in procession round " the cave where this image is; and in the " morning, drops of wax are found scattered " about on the sea-shore.

" The Christians, from this miraculous " appearance, intitled the image Our Lady " of Candelaria; and also because she holds a " green candle in one hand; in the other she " has an infant Jesus, holding a gilded bird in " each hand, which can be no other than the " doves of the purification of our blessed Lady " the Virgin.

" This image of the Virgin Mary in Can- " delaria is but small, being about two cubits, " or three feet in height; the colour of the

* In my author's time, many of the Guanches were known in distinction from the Spaniards; but they are now confounded together, excepting a few families about Candelaria, Guimar, and Chazna. On great festivals, some of those families claim the sole privilege of dressing and adorning the image of the Virgin of Candelaria.

" face is ſwarthy, the garments blue and " gold *. On them are certain Roman cha- " racters, which no one could explain, until " Gonzalo Argote de Molina, Provincial of " the Holy Brotherhood of Andaluſia, gave us " the following interpretation:

" On the veſtment near the neck, are the " following twelve letters; T, I, E, P, F, " S, E, P, M, E, R, I, with a roſe of four " leaves betwixt each. He makes them to be " initials of the following words, Tu Illuſtra " Es Patri Filio Spiritui ſancto Et Pia Mater " Ejus Redemptoris Jeſu †.

" On the girdle; N, A, R, M, P, R, L, " M, O, T, A, R, E. Which ſeem to be " initials of Noſtrum Altiſſimum Regem Ma- " ria Peperit Redidit Libertatem Maria Om- " nibus Teſtis A Regi Erebi ‡.

" And on the border of the ſleeve, near " the green candle, are theſe four letters, " L, P, V, R; which he interprets after " this manner, Lucem Perpetuam, Vobis " Reddidi ‖.

" On the tail of the garment are theſe four- " teen letters, I, N, N, I, P, E, P, N, E, I, " F, A, N, T: which, according to his ex-

* I ſuppoſe the garment is of the ſame ſubſtance with the image; but my author is ſilent in this matter.

† Thou art illuſtrious (or glorious) in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, and Mother of the Redeemer, Jeſus.

‡ Mary brought forth our moſt high King, ſhe gave liberty to all thoſe impriſoned by the king of hell.

‖ I have given to you the eternal life.

" planation,

" planation, are initials of theſe words, Iſta " Nequaquam Nivariæ In Perpetuus Effugiet " Pio Nomine Evocato Inſulæ Fortunatæ Ad- " verſarius Nullum *."

THE reaſon of my being ſo particular in deſcribing this image, is to afford light to ſome curious and learned perſon, by which he may form ſome judgment of its antiquity.

SOUTHWARD from Candelaria is Point Prieta, the ſouth-weſt point of the iſland; from thence the coaſt tends weſtward to la Montana Roxo (i. e. the Red Mountain); and from thence north-north-weſt to Point Teno, the north-weſt point of the iſland. All this coaſt is barren, and almoſt uninhabited, except about half way between Montana Roxo and Point Teno, or rather nearer to Teno, is the bay of Adexe, or, as it is pronounced, Adehe; where large ſhips may anchor. I never was in it, but am informed that it is open to the ſouth-weſt, and but little frequented, except by boats from the iſland of Gomera, which lies over-againſt it. Near Adehe the Count of Gomera has a houſe and ſome lands, on which he keeps a thouſand negro ſlaves, for planting of ſugar-canes and preparing ſugar. It is hard to know his motive for maintaining thoſe negroes in a country that abounds with poor labouring white people, who, with all their induſtry, can hardly earn enough to buy food ſufficient to keep ſoul and body together. Was he to ſell all thoſe ſlaves

* This will never leave Nivaria: its pious name invoked, the Fortunate Iſlands ſhall fear no adverſary.

in the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, I am certain the annual intereſt of the nett produce of the ſale would bring him in more than the preſent clear income of all his ſugar-works and eſtates in Tenerife, Gomera, and Hierro; for, as I am credibly informed, it amounts to no more than fifteen hundred pounds per annum. The only reaſon I can aſſign for ſuch ſtrange miſmanagement, is a certain low pride he has in being lord of a thouſand ſlaves.

In the neighbourhood of this port there are ſome mountains that are covered with ſtately pines, and are very eaſy of acceſs; for this reaſon the inhabitants of Gomera generally come hither for the wood which they uſe in building, the woods of their own iſland being more difficult of acceſs.

Between Adehe and Point Teno the ſhore is about half a mile in height, and perpendicular as a wall. Several ſtreams fall down from the ſummit into the ſea.

Point Teno runs a conſiderable way into the ſea, in the form of a creſcent: behind it, to the ſouthward, the ſea is very ſmooth, when the trade-wind prevails, which, in blowing weather, makes a great ſea to the northward of the point. I never was at an anchor there, but have paſſed near it ſeveral times, and by what then I had an opportunity to obſerve, I judge it to be a convenient port.

From Teno the land ſtretches away eaſt-north-eaſt and north-eaſt-by-eaſt, to Point Nago, the north-eaſt end of the iſland, from whence he ſet out. This ſide of Tenerife has quite a different aſpect from the other two already deſcribed; for in viewing it from the ſea,

ſea, we perceive a number of villages, woods, vineyards, and corn-fields, that make a moſt agreeable appearance.

Along ſhore, to the north-eaſt of Teno, is the village of St. Iago; and three leagues, in the ſame direction, from that point, is the village of Buenaviſta, ſituated among the vineyards, near the ſea; but we meet with no port until we advance above two leagues further, where there is a haven called Garrachica, formerly the beſt port in the iſland, being then a bay in the form of a horſe-ſhoe, but was deſtroyed in the year of the earthquakes (for ſo the natives termed the year 1704), and filled up by the rivers of burning lava that flowed into it from a volcano; inſomuch that houſes are now built where ſhips formerly lay at anchor; yet veſſels come to Garrachica in the ſummer, and lie ſecure with the trade-wind, which at that ſeaſon commonly blows there at eaſt-north-eaſt. Some time after the year of earthquakes the following account of them was written, and which is recorded in ſeveral deſcriptions of the Canary Iſlands.

"In the year 1704, there happened the "moſt alarming inſtance of this kind that had "ever been known. The earthquake began "the 24th of December, and, in the ſpace of "three hours, twenty-nine ſhocks were felt. "After this they became ſo violent as to rock "all the houſes on their foundations, and o-"blige the inhabitants to abandon them. The "conſternation became univerſal, and the "people, headed by the Biſhop, made pro-"ceſſions and public prayers in the open fields. "On the 31ſt, a great light was obſerved on

" Manja, towards the White Mountains. " Here the earth opened, and two volcanos " were formed, which threw up ſuch heaps " of ſtones, as to raiſe two conſiderable moun- " tains; and the combuſtible matter which " ſtill continued to be thrown up, kindled a- " bove fifty fires in the neighbourhood. In " this ſituation things remained till the 5th of " January, when the ſun was totally obſcured " by the clouds of ſmoke and flame, which " continually increaſed, and augmented the " conſternation and terror of the inhabitants. " Before night, the whole country, for three " leagues round, was laid in flames by the " flowing of liquid fire, with the rapidity of " a torrent, into all quarters, and cauſed by " another volcano, which had opened by at " leaſt thirty different vents within the circum- " ference of half a mile, towards Oratava. " What greatly increaſed the horror of the " ſcene, was the violence of the ſhocks, which " never once remitted, but by their force to- " tally overthrew ſeveral houſes, and ſhook " others to their very foundations, while the " miſerable inhabitants were driven defence- " leſs and diſmayed into the open fields, where " they expected every moment to be ſwallow- " ed up by ſome new gulph. The noiſe of " the volcano was heard twenty leagues off " at ſea; and it is credibly atteſted that the " ſea ſhook at that diſtance with ſuch violence " as alarmed the mariners, who imagined the " ſhip had ſtruck upon a rock, till the con- " tinuance of the motion gave them the firſt " intimation of the real cauſe. A torrent of " ſulphur, and melted ores of different kinds,

" ruſhed

" ruſhed forth from this laſt volcano, towards " Guimar; the houſes and public buildings " of which place were thrown down by the " violence of the accompanying earthquake. " On the 2d of February another volcano " broke out in the town of Guimar, which " ſwallowed up and entirely annihilated a " large church. Thus, from the 24th of " December to the 23d of February, the in- " habitants were kept in conſtant alarms by " continued ſhocks of earthquakes, and by " terrible volcanos breaking out in different " quarters of the iſland "

GARRACHICA is ſtill a town of note, and pretty large, containing ſeveral churches and convents of both ſexes. It has a ſmall trade for wines and brandy, which are generally ſent from hence in barks, or large open boats, to Santa Cruz or Port Orotava. Several veſſels are built here, ſome of three hundred tons burthen and upwards, which are ſtrong and durable.

TWO leagues to the eaſtward of Garrachica ſtands a town called the Port of Orotava, the ſituation of which is erroneouſly laid down in all our ſea-charts, which place it three or four leagues nearer to Point Nago than it really is.

THE marks by which a ſtranger may find Port Orotava are theſe: it lies about half way between Teno and Point Nago, but rather nearer to the latter, and cloſe in to the ſea ſhore. Above it, about a league inland, is another town, ſomewhat larger, called Villa de Orotava; between theſe are two ſmall hills, ſhaped like ſugar-loaves. No boat will go

from hence to a ſhip in the offing until ſhe approaches within a mile of the ſhore, when the pratique-boat puts a pilot on board, who brings her into the road, which is about a mile to the weſtward of the town, where ſhipping lie moored in forty or fifty fathom water. This is a good port in the ſummer-ſeaſon, or from the beginning of May to the end of October; but in the winter, ſhips are often obliged to ſlip their cables and put to ſea, for fear of being ſurpriſed by a north-weſt wind, which throws in a heavy ſea upon this coaſt. But theſe winds rarely happen, and commonly give warning before-hand, ſo that ſhips have time to get away. The pilot that boards a ſhip on her arrival, remains there until ſhe departs. Theſe pilots are very careful to ſlip and put to ſea, when they apprehend any danger. It is commonly calm in this road; but there is almoſt always a long northerly ſwell, that cauſes ſhips to roll very much, ſo that one would be apt to imagine it almoſt impoſſible to load a cargo there.

The landing-place is near to the middle of the town, where is a ſmall creek or haven among the rocks. There large boats load wines, &c. and carry them off to the ſhips in the road. Each of theſe boats generally carries fifteen or twenty hands, which hoiſt the wines aboard, and ſtow them away with amazing quickneſs and dexterity, even when a ſhip rolls from gunwale to gunwale, which is often the caſe in this road.

Port Orotava is a place of conſiderable trade, and has flouriſhed greatly ſince the deſtruction of the harbour of Garrachica: it con-

contains ſome good private buildings, two churches, two convents of Friars, and two of Nuns. At each end of the town is a black ſandy bay; along the northermoſt is a low ſtone wall, built to prevent an enemy from landing: at the other bay is a ſmall fort or caſtle, for the ſame purpoſe; and between them, at the landing-place, a battery of a few cannon. But the ſurf that continually breaks upon the ſhore, is a better defence than if it were garriſoned by ten thouſand of the beſt troops.

PORT Orotava is plentifully ſupplied with good water, which is conveyed to it, from a rivulet at a great diſtance, in open wooden ſpouts or troughs. About half way from Port Orotava to Point Nago, is a point of land, and behind, or to leeward of it, a ſmall bay or anchoring-place, called Puerto de Madera. Between which and Orotava are ſome landing-places of leſs note, lying behind points, where boats load wine for Port Orotava or Santa Cruz: but from Puerta de Madera to Point Nago the ſhore is high, rocky, and ſteep, conſequently inacceſſible. Having now deſcribed the ſea-coaſt of the iſland, I ſhall proceed to give an account of the inland parts.

ABOUT four miles inland from Santa Cruz, ſtands the city of St. Chriſtobal de la Laguna, i. e. St. Chriſtopher of the Lake. The road to it from Santa Cruz is a pretty ſteep aſcent, till you come within a ſmall diſtance of the town, which is ſituated in the corner of a large plain, about four miles in length, and about a mile in breadth. This city is the capital of the iſland, and contains two pariſh

churches, three convents of Friars, two of Nuns, and three hoſpitals, two of which are for the venereal diſeaſe, and the other for foundlings; with many handſome private buildings: the convents of Friars are of three different orders, viz. the Auguſtine, the Dominican, and the Franciſcan; and thoſe of the Nuns, Dominicans of St. Catherine and Franciſcans of St. Clara. The Jeſuits have a houſe here, where only two of that order reſide, having found little or no encouragement for more in the place. The water which the inhabitants drink, is conveyed in troughs or ſpouts to the town, from the mountains ſituated to the ſouthward of the plain.

In this city there is no trade, nor any ſhew of buſineſs, it being chiefly inhabited by the gentry of the iſland, particularly the officers of juſtice, ſuch as the Corregidor and his Tiniente or Lieutenant; the Regidores or Cavildo; with the Judge of the Indies, who preſides in the India-houſe, where all matters relating to the Weſt India commerce are managed: here is alſo an Office of Inquiſition, with its proper officers, ſubject to the Tribunal of the Holy Office at Gran Canaria. Notwithſtanding all thoſe people reſide here, the city appears to a ſtranger paſſing through it, as deſolate and almoſt uninhabited; for he can hardly ſee any body in the ſtreets, in the moſt frequented of which he may obſerve graſs growing. A perſon who has been in Holland, and compares St. Chriſtobal de la Laguna with Santa Cruz, will naturally think of the difference between the appearance of Delft and Amſterdam.

At the south side of the city, or rather behind it, is a laguna (i. e. a lake) about half a mile in circumference, from which the city takes its name, which is dry in the summer-season, but in the winter full of stagnant water. This city, situated on a plain, and elevated a great height above the sea, is extremely cold in winter, and exposed to the wind in all seasons. When the trade-wind blows fresh at north-north-east and north-east in the bay of Santa Cruz, the north-west wind prevails here, and blows generally with great vehemence. The inhabitants of Laguna have planted an avenue of trees on the brow of the hill, or extremity of the plain, just where the road descends to Santa Cruz; but, by the violence of the wind, they are all bent to the south-east, and stripped of their leaves: they were obliged to build circular walls around each of them when they were planted, to secure them from the wind, until they were strong enough to resist its force.

From the western extremity of the plain of Laguna the road descends to la Mantanza de Centejo, a large village, chiefly inhabited by peasants: it is in the midway between Santa Cruz and Port Orotava. From thence to la Villa de Orotava, the country abounds with habitations; for on the right hand are the large villages or rather towns of Tacoronte, Sausal, and la Rambla, besides many small villages and detached houses. La Villa de Orotava, about three leagues inland from Port Orotava, is a large place, and contains several churches, convents of Friars and Nuns, with a number of stately private buildings of stone. A rivulet

runs

runs through the midſt of the town, which ſupplys the inhabitants with water, and refreſhes their gardens and orchards. This place appeared to me to be about as large again as Port Orotava. Continuing the ſame route to the weſtward, the next town is Realejo; being a large place, ſituated about a league or four miles beyond la Villa de Orotava, and ſurrounded with vineyards. All theſe places are populous, and ſituated a little way from the ſea, from whence moſt of them may be ſeen; and indeed no habitations here are at a greater diſtance from it than three leagues. The whole iſland continues riſing on all ſides from the ſea, till it terminates in the Pike, which is the centre. The north ſide is the moſt fertile, and aſcends more gradually than the others, particularly a ſpace along the ſhore about three leagues in breadth, bounded on the ſides by high mountains, or rather cliffs; but inland, or upwards from the ſea, it riſes like a hanging garden all the way, without any conſiderable interruption of hills or valleys, till you come within a league of the clouds. In the weſtern border of this ſpace is ſituated Realejo; and on the eaſtern, La Rambla. Between them are the towns of Orotava and Port Orotava, with a number of detached habitations ſcattered about from the ſea-ſhore upwards to the clouds, in or beyond which are no houſes or habitations; yet the clouds are not higher than the middle diſtance between the ſea and the ſummit of the Pike. All the fertile ground, within a league of the ſea, is covered with vines; that of the next league produces corn; and the third, ſome corn, woods

woods of chesnut-trees, and many other different sorts, particularly bresos, which are used by the natives for fuel. Above these woods are the clouds, which, in fine weather, toward the evening generally descend gradually and rest upon those woods until the morning, when they reascend about a league, and there remain until the succeeding evening. In that height of the island where they rest in the day-time, there was formerly a great quantity of stately pine-trees; but being easy to come at, they were almost all cut down by the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, so that few now remain in this part which I am describing; but in other places of the island in the same altitude, and which are distant from any habitations, there are great numbers of them. From Orotava, ascending to the summit of the island, leaving the Pike * on the right hand, and then descending to the south-west, we come to the town of Chazna, called by some Villa Flor, where there is a convent of Friars; near it is a well of an acid water, which has a medicinal quality, and is reckoned an efficacious remedy for many disorders, but pernicious and fatal to those who drink it when troubled with the venereal disease. On the south-east of the island, inland from Candelaria, is the town of Güimar, a considerable place, but, like Chazna, remote from other habitations: both these towns have some families living in them, who know themselves to be the genuine offspring of the Guanches.

* I do not consider the Pike as the top of the island, but rather as a hill or mountain upon it.

I have

I have seen and conversed with some of these people, but they could not gratify my curiosity in any thing concerning the manners and customs of their ancestors, whose language they have entirely lost. They appeared to me to be of a fairer complexion than the Spaniards of the province of Andalusia. Above or inland from Garrachica, is Ico, a large and populous town, abounding with wealthy people: here are some manufactures of silk, particularly stockings, which are exported to the Spanish West Indies. Besides those places already described, are many small villages, particularly westward from Realejo, towards Ico and Buenavista; also in the mountains, between the city of Laguna and Point Nago, are many pleasant romantic little valleys and hollows, well watered, and abounding with shady groves: these are the most agreeable places in the island; but the gentry of Tenerife have no taste for country-houses or solitary retirements, chusing rather to live in towns. The inhabitants of those mountains are fairer than the other inhabitants of the island; probably they are the offspring of those fair people who lived on the north side of the island, of whom mention is made in the History of the Discovery and Conquest.

Considering the number of large and populous towns situated in Tenerife, with the villages, and detached habitations, it will be no surprize to understand that this island, when the last account was taken, contained no less than ninety-six thousand persons. Indeed it is computed to contain as many inhabitants as all the rest of the seven islands together. I never

never heard the number of any of them calculated, but Tenerife, Palma, and Hierro: the ſecond of theſe is ſaid to have thirty thouſand inhabitants, and the laſt one thouſand; theſe added, fall ſhort of the number in Tenerife by ſixty-five thouſand, which, according to the above-mentioned computation, remains to be divided among the iſlands Lancerota, Fuertaventura, Gran Canaria, and Gomera. I ſuppoſe then, by what I have had opportunity of obſerving, that Fuertaventura may contain ten thouſand perſons; Lancerota, eight thouſand; Gomera, ſeven thouſand; and Canaria, forty thouſand.

BEFORE I leave the deſcription of Tenerife, it will not be improper to give ſome account of the Pike, ſo much taken notice of by all who have had occaſion to paſs near it and obſerve its prodigious height.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of the Pike of Tenerife.

IN the beginning of the month of September, 1761, about four o'clock in the afternoon, I ſet out on horſeback, in company with a Maſter of a ſhip, from Port Orotava, to viſit the Pike. We had with us a ſervant, a muleteer, and a guide: after aſcending about ſix miles, we arrived, towards ſun-ſet, at the moſt diſtant habitation from the ſea this way, which was in a hollow. Here we found an aqueduct of open troughs or ſpouts, that conveys water down from the head of the hollow. Here our ſervants watered the cattle, and filled ſome ſmall barrels with water, to ſerve us on our expedition. While they were thus employed, we alighted and walked into the hollow, which we found to be very pleaſant, abounding with many trees that ſent forth an odoriferous ſmell. Near the houſes are ſome fields of maize or Indian corn: in ſeveral places on this ſide of the iſland, the natives have two crops of this grain. Mounting again, we travelled for ſome time on a ſteep road, and got into the woods and the clouds juſt as it grew dark; we could not well miſs our way, the road being bounded on both ſides with trees or buſhes, which were chiefly laurel, ſavine, and breſos or bruſhwood: having travelled about

bout a mile, we came to the upper edge of the wood above the clouds, where we alighted, made a fire, and ſupped; ſome time after we lay down to ſleep under the buſhes. About half an hour after ten, the moon ſhining bright, we mounted again, and travelled ſlowly two hours, through an exceſſive bad road, reſembling ruins of ſtone buildings ſcattered over the fields. After we got out of this road, we came upon ſmall light white pumice-ſtone like peas or ſhingle. Here we road at a pretty good pace for near an hour. The air now began to be very ſharp, cold, and piercing, and the wind blew ſtrong about ſouth-weſt or weſt-ſouth-weſt. Our guide adviſed us to alight here, as it was a convenient place, and reſt till four or five in the morning. We followed his counſel, and entered into a cave, the mouth of which was built up to about a man's height, to prevent the wind and cold from getting in. Near this place we were ſo lucky as to find ſome dry withered retamas, which was the only ſhrub or vegetable we ſaw hereabout; with theſe we made a great fire to warm ourſelves, and then fell aſleep, but were ſoon awaked by an itching of the ſkin, which we imagined proceeded from fleas, but was owing to the cold thin air, want of reſt, and ſleeping in our cloaths; a thing I have known to happen to people on ſuch expeditions. We paſſed away the time here as well as we could; but while we crept ſo near the fire, that one ſide was almoſt ſcorched, the other was benumbed with cold.

About five in the morning we mounted again, and travelled ſlowly about a mile, for the

the road here was rather too ſteep for travelling on horſeback, and our horſes were now fatigued. At laſt we came among ſome great looſe rocks, where was a ſort of cottage built of looſe ſtones: the name of this place our guide told us was Eſtancia de los Ingleſſes (i. e. the Engliſh pitching-place), ſo called, I imagine, from ſome Engliſh people reſting there on their way to viſit the Pike, for none go that journey but foreigners, and ſome poor people of the iſland, who earn their bread by gathering brimſtone; the Spaniſh gentry having no curioſity of this kind. Here we alighted again, the remainder of our way being too ſteep for riding, and left one of our ſervants to look after the cattle, and then proceeded on our journey afoot. We walked hard to get ourſelves a heat, but were ſoon fatigued by the ſteepneſs of the road, which was alſo looſe and ſandy. When we got to the top of this riſing or hill, we came to a vaſt number of looſe great ſtones, whoſe ſurfaces were flat: each of thoſe ſtones or rocks was, on a medium, about ten feet every way. This road was not ſo ſteep as the other, but we were obliged to travel a conſiderable way over the rocks, leaping from one to another, for they were not all quite cloſe to each other. Among theſe is a cavern, where is a well, or natural reſervoir, into which we deſcended by a ladder, which the poor people placed there for that purpoſe. This cavern is ſpacious within, being almoſt ten yards wide, and twenty in height: all the bottom of it, except juſt at the feet of the ladder, is covered with water, which is about two fathoms deep,

and

and was then frozen towards the inner edges of the cave: we attempted to drink of this water, but could not, by reaſon of its exceſſive coldneſs; however, our guide filled a bottle, which he had purpoſely brought from the Eſtancia. After travelling about a quarter or half a mile upon the great ſtones or rocks, we came to the bottom of the real Pike, or ſugar-loaf, which is very ſteep, and to add to the difficulty of aſcending, the ground is looſe and gives way under the feet, and conſequently extremely fatiguing; for although the length of this eminence is not above half a mile; yet we were obliged to ſtop and take breath I believe thirty times; at laſt we got to the top, where we lay about a quarter of an hour to reſt ourſelves, being quite ſpent with fatigue. When we left the Eſtancia in the morning, the ſun was juſt emerging from the clouds, which were ſpread out under us at a great diſtance downward, appearing like the ocean. Above the clouds, at a vaſt diſtance to the north, we ſaw ſomething black, which we imagined to be the top of the iſland of Madeira. We took the bearings of it by a pocket compaſs, and found it to be exactly in the direction of that iſland from Tenerife: but before we got to the top of the Pike it diſappeared. We ſaw from hence the tops of the iſlands Palma, Gomera, Hierro, and Gran Canaria; they ſeemed to be quite near, but we could neither perceive Lancerota or Fuertaventura, becauſe they are not high enough to pierce the clouds. Unfortunately we did not find the air quite clear and free from clouds, otherwiſe I know not but we might have

have ſeen Madeira, Porto Santo, and even the neareſt part of Mount Atlas, which is about an hundred leagues diſtant from hence; for although I ſaid before, that viewing the Pike from the ocean, it could not be diſtinguiſhed from the ſky farther off than an hundred and fifty or an hundred and ſixty miles; yet it muſt be obſerved that the air above the clouds is by far thinner, more pure, and freer from vapours than the air below; for before we came to the Eſtancia de los Ingleſſes, we obſerved the moon and ſtars to ſhine with uncommon brightneſs; beſides, the ſpherical figure of the earth could not prevent our ſeeing Mount Atlas, becauſe its ſummit and that of Tenerife, by reaſon of their immenſe height (although ſo far aſunder) would yet be far exalted above the horizon. But whether or not viſion extends ſo far as what I am now hinting, I leave to others to determine.

AFTER we had reſted ſome time, we began to look about and obſerve the top of the Pike. Its dimenſions ſeemed to be exactly as deſcribed by one Mr. Eden, whoſe journey to the Pike we find related in ſome of our accounts of the Canary Iſlands. He ſays the length is about an hundred and forty yards, the breadth an hundred and ten. It is hollow, and ſhaped within like a bell ſubverted. From the edges or upper part of this bell, or cauldron, as the natives call it, to the bottom is about forty yards. In many parts of this hollow, we obſerved ſmoke and ſteams of ſulphur iſſuing forth in puffs. The heat of the ground in ſome particular places was ſo great, as to penetrate through the ſoles of our ſhoes to our feet:

feet: seeing some spots of earth or soft clay, we tried the heat with our fingers, but could not thrust them in farther than half an inch, for the deeper we went, the more intense we found the heat. We then took our guide's staff, and thrust it to the depth of three inches into a hole or porous place, where the smoke seemed to be thickest, and held it there about a minute, and then drew it out, when we found it burned to charcoal. We gathered here many pieces of most curious and beautiful brimstone of all colours, particularly azure blue, green, violet, yellow, and scarlet. But what chiefly engaged the attention of my companion, was the extraordinary and uncommon appearance of the clouds below us, at a great distance; they seemed like the ocean, only the surface of them was not quite so blue and smooth, but had the appearance of very white wool; and where this cloudy ocean, as I may call it, touched the shore, it seemed to foam like billows breaking on the shore. When we ascended through the clouds, it was dark; but when we mounted again, between ten and eleven, the moon shone bright, the clouds were then below us, and about a mile distant: we took them for the ocean, and wondered to see it so near; nor did we discover our mistake until the sun arose. When we descended to the clouds, in returning from the Pike, and entered within them, they appeared to us as a thick fog or mist, of the consistence of those we frequently see in England: all the trees of the fore-mentioned woods, and our cloaths were wet with it.

THE

THE air on the top of the Pike was thin, cold, piercing, and of a dry parching nature, like the ſouth-eaſterly winds which I have felt in the great deſert of Africa, or the Levanters in the Mediterranean: or even not unlike thoſe dry eaſterly winds which are frequent in the northern parts of Europe, in clear weather, in the months of March or April.

IN aſcending the higheſt part of the mountain, called the ſugar-loaf, which is very ſteep, our hearts panted and beat vehemently, ſo that as I obſerved before, we were obliged to reſt above thirty times to take breath; but whether this was owing to the thinneſs of the air cauſing a difficulty of reſpiration, or to the uncommon fatigue which we ſuffered in climbing the hill, I cannot determine; but believe it was partly owing to the one, and partly to the other. Our guide, a ſlim, agile, old man, was not affected in the ſame manner with us, but climbed up with eaſe, like a goat; for he was one of thoſe poor men who earn their living by gathering brimſtone in the cauldron and other volcanos, the Pike itſelf being no other, though it has not burned for ſome years paſt, as may be plainly underſtood by the nature of its ſubſtance; and indeed all the top of the iſland ſhews evident marks of ſome terrible revolution that has happened in Tenerife; for the ſugar-loaf is nothing elſe than earth mixed with aſhes and calcined ſtones, thrown out of the bowels of the earth: and the great ſquare ſtones, before deſcribed, ſeem to have been thrown out of the cauldron or hollow of the Pike, when it was a volcano. The top of the Pike is inacceſſible in every way but

but that by which we went up, viz. by the eaſt ſide. Its ſteepeſt part is on the north-weſt, towards Garrachica. We tumbled ſome looſe rocks down from that quarter, which rolled a vaſt way, till we loſt ſight of them.

HAVING ſurveyed every thing worthy of obſervation, we returned to the Eſtancia, where our horſes were left; the whole time ſpent in deſcending from the top of the Pike to this place, was only half an hour, although the aſcent took us up about two hours and a half. It was now about ten in the morning, and the ſun ſhone ſo exceſſively hot, as to oblige us to take ſhelter in the cottage; being exceedingly fatigued, we lay down there, intending to ſleep, but could not for the cold, which was ſo intenſe under the ſhade, that we were obliged to kindle a fire to keep ourſelves warm.

AFTER taking ſome repoſe, we mounted our horſes about noon, and deſcended by the ſame way that we went up, and came to ſome pines, ſituated about two miles above the clouds: between theſe pines and the Pike, grows no herb, ſhrub, tree, or graſs, excepting the fore-mentioned retama. About five of the clock in the evening we arrived at Orotava, not having alighted by the way to ſtop, only ſometimes to walk where the road was too ſteep for riding. The whole diſtance we rode in the five hours ſpent in coming down from the Eſtancia to Orotava, we computed to be about fifteen Engliſh miles, travelling at the rate of three miles an hour: ſuppoſe then we deduct five of theſe for windings and turnings, the diſtance from the ſea to the Eſ-

tancia,

tancia, in a ſtrait line, will be about ten miles; which, if carefully compared with the aſcent of the road *, I reckon will make the perpendicular height of the Eſtancia to be about four Engliſh miles; to which add a mile of perpendicular height from thence to the Pike, the whole will be about five Engliſh miles: I am very certain I cannot be miſtaken in this calculation above a mile either way. There is no place in the world more proper for an obſervatory than the Eſtancia: if a commodious warm houſe or cottage was built upon it, to accommodate aſtronomers while the moderate weather continues, viz. all July, Auguſt, and September, they might make their obſervations, take an account of the wind and weather of the region above the clouds, and remark their nature and properties. But if any perſon intends to viſit the Pike, I would adviſe him to wait for fine clear weather, carry a good tent, plenty of water, and ſome proviſions along with him, that he may be enabled to remain at the Eſtancia four or five days, in which time he might go twice or thrice to the top of the Pike, and make his obſervations at leiſure.

* I imagine that no one who has been at Orotava, will think twenty-two or twenty-three degrees too great an aſcent from thence to the ſummit of the iſland; for ſo many have I allowed in calculating the perpendicular height.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Of the Weather of Tenerife; and its Produce.

THE weather in Tenerife is not different from that in Canaria, already deſcribed; but there is ſomething particular here with reſpect to the winds; for along the coaſt of Africa, adjacent to theſe iſlands, the trade-wind blows from the north-north-weſt, to the north-eaſt, according as it comes from the land or ſea; taking the medium of theſe, we may ſay that the trade-wind blows there at north-by-eaſt; at Lancerota and Fuertaventura, at north-north-eaſt; at Canaria, north-eaſt; but at Tenerife, north-eaſt-by-eaſt; and further to the weſtward, at Palma, it blows at eaſt-north-eaſt. We may obſerve by this, that the further we depart from the coaſt of Africa, the more we find the wind to veer to the eaſtward; but beyond Palma it remains the ſame, viz. at eaſt-north-eaſt, for then it is out of the reach of the attraction or influence of the African coaſt. What cauſes that influence, I ſhall have occaſion to explain in the deſcription of the continent. The above account of the winds is only to be underſtood of fine weather, when the trade-wind blows true, for it often varies a few points.

THE ſea-breeze in Tenerife generally ſets in about ten o'clock in the morning, on the

eaſt and north-eaſt ſides of the iſland, and blows till five or ſix in the evening, when it falls calm until midnight; then the land-wind begins, and continues until ſeven or eight in the morning, when it is ſucceeded by a calm, which continues until the ſea-breeze begins again to blow.

The ſea-breeze in the bay of Santa Cruz, and on all the eaſt ſide of the iſland, blows commonly at eaſt; and the land wind at weſt. On the north ſide, the ſea-breeze blows at north-eaſt-by-eaſt, or north-eaſt; and the land-wind directly oppoſite to it. But at Point Nago, where the land projects far into the ſea towards the north-eaſt, there is no land-wind.

On the brow of the hill, behind or above Santa Cruz, and at the city of Laguna, a freſh gale at north-weſt prevails all the time of the ſea-breeze, which is occaſioned by the mountains almoſt ſurrounding the plain; for they are ſo exceeding high on the ſouth ſide of it, as to beat back the ſea-breeze, and throw it againſt the mountains that bound the north ſide of the plain, where finding no paſſage, it veers to the ſouth-eaſt, where meeting with no reſiſtance, it forces itſelf through the plain with great vehemence, until it comes to the brow of the hill above-mentioned, where part of the current of air pours down the hill towards Santa Cruz, and even advances within a mile and half of the ſea, where it is checked by the true ſea-breeze. The inhabitants of Laguna and Santa Cruz receive ſome benefit from the ſtrength of this north-weſt wind, as it ſets at work twelve or fifteen mills, which they

they have erected on the brow of the hill, for grinding of corn.

On the ſouth-weſt coaſt of Tenerife there is no regular ſea or land-breeze, becauſe the trade or north-eaſterly wind cannot get at it by reaſon of the immenſe height of the iſland towering above the region of that wind; ſo that on this ſide of the iſland, either an eddy-wind at ſouth-weſt prevails, or a calm.

The clouds, as I obſerved before, are generally ſuſpended half way between the ſea and top of the Pike. Below thoſe clouds, the north-eaſterly winds moſtly prevail; and at the ſame time above them, we find a freſh weſterly gale; which I believe to be the caſe in every part of the world where the trade-wind blows. I cannot pretend to account properly for this phænomenon, but ſo it is on the top of Tenerife, and of ſome of the reſt of the iſlands. The hard northerly gales that blow in the winter ſeaſon in the ſea adjacent to the Canary Iſlands, never blow home to the ſhore, being as it were ſtruck dead, if not reflected by the exceſſive height of the land, over which the wind cannot paſs. This I have often experienced; for I have ſeveral times run from the Lizard Point, in Cornwall, to the Canary Iſlands in nine, ten, and twelve days, with freſh gales of northerly wind, a great ſea following us all the way: when we arrived there, I was informed there had been in all that time a heavy long ſwell on the north ſide of the iſlands, but not a breath of wind, ſo that the ſhips then lying in Port Orotava rode with a ſlack cable. But on the north ſide of Tenerife, viz. at Orotava, a north-weſt wind is

exceeding dangerous, for that wind blows upon the ſhore, but not directly againſt the exceſſive high land, which no doubt would deaden and reflect it, but againſt the land projecting out north-eaſt into the ſea, and which is terminated by Point Nago: now that land being moderately high, and riſing gradually from the ſea towards the mountains of Laguna, the north-weſt wind finds a paſſage over it, and conſequently blows freely. However, the pilots who have the charge of ſhips in this road, know the ſigns of the weather ſo well, that they take care not to be ſurpriſed with a north-weſt wind, for when they find it coming on, they ſlip their cables and put out to ſea. They are ſo watchful in this matter, that no ſhip has been wrecked here by that wind in the memory of man.

THE produce of this iſland is much the ſame as that of Canaria, only there is leſs corn-land here, and more vineyards. The wines are ſtrong, good, and fit for exportation, eſpecially to hot climates, which improve them much. There was formerly a great quantity of Malvaſia or Canary ſack made here, but of late days, there are not above fifty pipes made in a ſeaſon; for they gather the grapes when green, and make a dry hard wine of them; which, when about two or three years old, can hardly be diſtinguiſhed from Madeira wine, but after four years of age, it turns ſo mellow and ſweet, that it reſembles the wine of Malaga in Spain. Orchilla-weed grows here in abundance, as it does in all the Canary Iſlands.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Description of the Island of Palma.

FROM Teno, the west end of Tenerife, to the nearest part of the island of Palma, it is, west-north-west, seventeen leagues. Palma is about eight leagues in length, reckoning it from north to south, and the extreme breadth about six leagues.

THE summit of this island is higher than that of Tenerife; for, as I observed before, we reckon the Pike, or sugar-loaf, only as a hill placed on the top of the island. When one who has not seen land of an uncommon height, approaches within twelve leagues of the islands Tenerife and Palma, in clear weather, and comes all at once to behold them, his surprize will be very great, and not unlike that which strikes a person who has never seen the ocean, until he comes to have a full view of it all at once from the top of an adjacent mountain.

THE chief port in Palma is that of Santa Cruz, on the south-east side of the island. The mark by which a stranger may find it, is the following: when he approaches to the east side of the island, Palma will then appear to him shaped exactly like a saddle. Let him steer so as to fall in a little to windward of the lowest place, or middle of the saddle, until

he comes within a mile of the land; then run along-ſhore to the ſouthward, and he will perceive the town cloſe by the ſea-ſhore, and the ſhipping lying in the road; but as the land behind or above the town is high and ſteep, one cannot diſcern the ſhipping till within a mile of them. The road is within a muſquet-ſhot of the ſhore, where veſſels commonly ride in fifteen or twenty fathoms water, and are expoſed to eaſterly winds; yet, with good anchors and cables, may ride with great ſafety, in all winds that blow in this part of the world, for the ground is clean and good, and the great height of the iſland, with the perpendicular height of the land facing the road, repels the wind that blows upon it, though ever ſo ſtrong; yet there is always, in good weather, a gentle ſea-breeze in the road. When there is a great north-eaſt ſwell out at ſea, it comes rolling into the bay; but, for want of wind, and becauſe of the deepneſs of the water cloſe to the ſhore, it has no power or force, ſo that ſhips in ſuch a caſe ride here with a ſlack cable. Theſe things conſidered, we may conclude the road of Santa Cruz, in Palma, to be more ſecure than any of thoſe of Canaria or Tenerife; but in the winter-time, the rolling ſwell that comes into the bay, breaks high upon the beach, and prevents boats from going off or landing, for the ſpace of three or four days together. A ſmall mole was formerly built here, at a conſiderable expence, but was ſoon after deſtroyed by the violence of the ſurf. Another has been begun to be erected there, and the work carried on for ſome years paſt, but I do not know that it is yet finiſhed.

SANTA

SANTA CRUZ DE LA PALMA is a large town, containing two parish churches, several convents of Friars and Nuns, with many neat private buildings; though not so good and large as those of the city of Palmas in Canaria, or of the towns of Tenerife. Near the mole is a castle or battery, mounted with a few cannon, for the defence of the shipping in the bay, and to prevent an enemy from landing. In the middle of the town, near the great church, is a fountain, filled by a rivulet, which plentifully supplies the inhabitants with good water.

TASSACORTA, the next port, lies on the south-west part of the island; it is exposed to westerly winds, and little frequented by any vessels excepting boats.

IN all this island there is no town of any note, excepting Santa Cruz; but many villages, the chief of which are St. Andres and Tassacorta.

IN the north-east part of Palma, inland, is a spacious high mountain, steep on all sides, called la Caldera, i. e. the Cauldron. This mountain is hollow, like the Pike of Tenerife; the summit is about two leagues in diameter every way, and within descends gradually from thence to the bottom, which is a space of about thirty acres.

ON the declivity of the inside spring several rivulets, which join all together at the bottom, and issue in one stream through a passage to the outside of the mountain from which it descends, and, after running some distance from thence, it turns two sugar-mills. The water of this stream is unwholesome, by reason of its

its being tainted with other water, of a pernicious quality, which mixes with it in the cauldron. All the inside of the cauldron abounds with herbage, and is covered with laurels, te-a or pitch-pine, palms, lignum Rhodium, and retamas; these last, in this island, have a yellow bark, and grow to the size of large trees, but in the others they are only shrubs. The shepherds here are very careful not to let the he-goats feed on the leaves of the retama, because they breed a stone in the bladder, which kills them.

On the outside of the cauldron spring two rivulets, one of which runs northward to the village of St. Andres, and turns two sugar-mills, the other runs to the eastward, to the town of Santa Cruz. Besides these there are no other rivulets, streams, or fountains of water of any consequence in the island; for which reason the natives build square reservoirs or tanks, with planks of pitch-pine, which they make tight by caulking; these they fill from the torrents of rain-water that fall down from the mountains in the winter-season, and preserve it for themselves and great cattle; for the sheep, goats, and hogs, in places distant from the rivulets, feed on roots of fern and asphodil * almost all the year round, and therefore have little or no need of water, there being moisture enough in those roots to supply their want. The south quarter of the island is most destitute of water; yet there is a medicinal well of hot water there, so close to the sea shore that

* The Spaniards call these last, roots of gamones, which I believe to be roots of asphodil.

the

the tide flows into it at full ſea. At another place, called Uguer, is a cave, which has a long narrow entrance, ſo ſtrait that a perſon muſt enter it backwards, keeping his face all the while towards the mouth of the cave that he may ſee his way. After he has got through this paſſage, he enters into a ſpacious grotto, where water diſtils from between the large flakes of ſlate-ſtones that hang from the roof. The leaſt blow given to theſe, reſounds through the cave with a noiſe like thunder. In the diſtrict of Tifuya is a mountain, which, to all appearance, has been removed from its original ſituation by an earthquake: the natives have a tradition, that the ſpot where it now ſtands was a plain, and the moſt fruitful ſpot in the whole iſland, until it was deſtroyed by the burning lava, and the fall of the mountain.

THE ſummit of Palma formerly abounded with trees; but in the year 1545, and after it, a great drought prevailed, which deſtroyed them all: however, ſome time after, others began to ſpring, but were deſtroyed by the rabbits and other animals, who finding no paſture below, went up there and eat all the young trees and herbs; ſo that now the upper part of the iſland is quite bare and deſolate. Thoſe rabbits were firſt brought to Palma by Don Pedro Fernandez de Lugo, the ſecond Adelantado, or Lieutenant-governor of Tenerife, and have ſince increaſed exceedingly.

BEFORE the ſhrubs and trees failed from the ſummit of the iſland, much manna fell there, which the natives gathered, and ſent to Spain for ſale.

The produce here is much the ſame with that of Gran Canaria, only with this difference, that a great quantity of ſugar is made in Palma, eſpecially on the weſt ſide of the iſland. The eaſt ſide produces good wines, of a different taſte and flavour from thoſe of Tenerife: the dry wine is ſmall-bodied, and of a yellow colour. The Malvaſia is not ſo luſcious or ſtrong as that of Tenerife, but when it is about three years old, has the flavour of a rich and ripe pine apple: but theſe wines are very difficult of preſervation when exported, eſpecially to cold climates, where they often turn ſour. There is abundance of good honey here, eſpecially in thoſe hives which are at a diſtance from vines and mocanes (a fruit reſembling elder-berries) for both theſe have a bad effect on its colour. In Palma is much gum-dragon; and from the te-a or pitch-pine, pitch is extracted in great quantities.

All ſorts of fruits growing in Canaria or Tenerife, are found here alſo, in greater abundance, inſomuch that the natives cannot conſume them; but having ſugar in great plenty, they make vaſt quantities of ſweetmeats and conſerves, which they export to the reſt of the iſlands, and to ſome part of the Indies.

In time of ſcarcity of corn, the natives of this iſland make good bread of the roots of fern. I never eat any of that ſort of bread here, but I have in the iſland of Gomera, and found it not much inferior to that made of wheat-flour; but the fern in Gomera is reckoned better and more wholeſome than that of Palma.

Al-

ALTHOUGH the woods that grew on the ſummit of Palma were all deſtroyed, yet there is abundance of trees in the region of the clouds, and beneath it, inſomuch that the iſland, at about two leagues diſtance, appears like one entire wood. Pine-trees grow here to ſuch a ſize, as to be fit for maſts for the largeſt ſhips; but they are heavy, and, by reaſon of the ruggedneſs of the roads, the expence of bringing them to the ſhore would be immenſe; I remember an Engliſh American ſloop, of one hundred and fifty tons, having loſt her maſt, was towed in here by the fiſhing-boats; the natives gave the maſter leave to go to the woods and cut any tree fit for his purpoſe gratis; but the expence of bringing it down, though labour is cheap here, coſt him twenty-five pounds ſterling: nevertheleſs, much timber is exported from hence to the reſt of the iſlands.

THE air, weather, and winds are much the ſame here as at Canaria and Tenerife, only with this difference, that weſterly winds and rain are rather more frequent in Palma, the reaſon of which is, that it lies more to the weſtward and northward, conſequently not being ſo far within the verge of the north-eaſt trade-wind as thoſe iſlands, is more expoſed to variable winds, particularly the ſouth-weſt, which is the moſt prevalent wind in the latitudes adjacent to thoſe of the north-eaſt trade.

As to the climate here, and in Canaria, Tenerife, Gomera, and Hierro, a perſon will find great difference, according as he lives near the ſea-ſhore, or up in the mountains; for

for in the months of July, Auguſt, and September, the heat is ſomewhat intolerable near the ſea-ſhore, when there is a calm; but when the heat is ſo great on the ſea-coaſt, the air is quite freſh and pleaſant on the mountains. In the middle of winter, the habitations far up in the mountains, near the clouds, are exceſſively cold; the natives keep fires burning in their houſes all the day long, which is never done below, near the ſea, for there they uſe fire only in their kitchens. Were the inhabitants of the city of Laguna to have the leaſt idea of the pleaſure of the ſocial winter fire, they would no doubt build chimneys in their houſes, for in that place the weather is raw and cold in that ſeaſon: hail frequently falls in this place; and ſome of the oldeſt of the preſent inhabitants remember a great ſnow falling upon the plain, where it remained for ſome days.

For eight months of the year the ſummits of all the Canary Iſlands, Lancerota and Fuertaventura excepted, are generally covered with ſnow.

On viewing Palma at the diſtance of three leagues off at ſea, one would imagine that the mountains were full of gutters, or beds of torrents of rain-water; but theſe only appear little, being high up, conſequently at a great diſtance off; but when one approaches near, he finds them to be large valleys or hollows, abounding with wood.

This iſland has not been exempted from volcanos, the effects of which are ſtill to be ſeen in almoſt every part of it; for the channels where the burning matter, melted ores, and

and calcined ſtones and aſhes ran, are eaſily diſtinguiſhed. In the memory * of ſome of the oldeſt inhabitants living in the year 1750, one of thoſe fiery rivers ran down from the mountains toward the town of Santa Cruz, and emptied itſelf into the ſea about a mile to the northward of the town. No conſiderable earthquake hath happened in thoſe iſlands for ſome years paſt, but now and then they have ſome ſlight ſhocks: they had ſome at the time of the memorable earthquake at Liſbon, but they were ſcarce perceptible: only the ſudden

* Nunno de Penna, in his Hiſtorical Memoirs, ſays, that on the 13th of November, 1677, a little after ſun ſet, the earth ſhook for thirteen leagues, with a frightful noiſe, that laſted five days, during which the earth opened in ſeveral places; but the greateſt gap was upon that called Mont aux Chevres, a mile and a half from the ſea, from whence proceeded a great fire, which caſt up ſtones and pieces of rock. The like happened in ſeveral places thereabouts; and in leſs than a quarter of an hour it made twenty-eight gaps about the foot of the mountain, which vomited abundance of flames and burning ſtones. It took its courſe over the plain of Los Cainos, and ran with violence towards the Holy Fountain; but coming near the brink of the great deſcent, turned to the right, and forced its way towards the Old Port, where the Spaniards landed when they made themſelves maſters of this iſland. He adds, that on the 20th of November following, there was a ſecond eruption of the Mont aux Chevres, from whence came forth ſtones and fire, with great earthquakes and thunders, for ſeveral days, ſo that black cinders were taken up at ſeven leagues diſtance, the adjacent lands were entirely deſtroyed, and the inhabitants forced to quit their habitations.

flux

flux and reflux of the ſea was evident enough, at Porto de Luz, in Canaria, where the ſea went about a mile back, and remained there for ſome time. The people of Palma at that time ſeeing a wreck lying upon the ground, which the water had left bare, ſome of them were ſo bold as to go to it, but the ſea ſuddenly returning, ſwept them all away. A boatman at Port Orotava told me, that on the day of the Liſbon earthquake, his boat was hauled up on the beach, and he was leaning upon it, converſing with ſome fiſhermen on the ſtrand, when all on a ſudden the ſea floated his boat, and wetted him and his companions to the middle; then retiring a great way back, it returned again, but not with ſuch violence as at firſt; and ſo continued ebbing and flowing for the ſpace of an hour: they were all aſtoniſhed at this ſtrange phænomenon; but when they received the news of the deſtruction at Liſbon, my boatman ſwore ſolemnly that he never would work on All-ſaints day again while he lived; "Which oath, added he, I intend moſt "religiouſly to obſerve."

THE black ſhining ſand which we throw upon writing to prevent blotting, is found in many places on the ſhore of this and the other iſlands. It ſeems to have been thrown out of volcanos; and is certainly the moſt perfect iron, for the magnet or load-ſtone will, when held near it, lick up every grain, leaving nothing behind. I have been told that ſome experiments have been publicly made, without effect, to turn this ſand into bar-iron: yet I am credibly informed that a gentleman in London underſtands

underſtands this ſecret, and has a caſe of razors made of this ſame black ſhining ſand.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Iſland of Gomera.

THE middle of Gomera lies ſouth-weſt from Point Teno, in Tenerife, about ſix leagues diſtance. The principal town is ſituated cloſe by the ſea-ſhore, in the bottom or cod of a bay, where ſhipping lie land-locked from all winds, except the ſouth-eaſt. Here you may moor at a convenient diſtance from the ſhore, from ſeven fathoms water to fifteen; but as the land-wind frequently blows hard, it is neceſſary for a ſhip to moor with a large ſcope of cable, otherwiſe ſhe will be in danger of being blown out of the bay. The ſea here is generally ſo ſmooth, that boats may land on the beach without danger. On the north ſide of the bay is a cove, where ſhips of any burthen may haul cloſe to the ſhore (which is a high and perpendicular cliff), and there heave down, clean, or repair. When boats cannot land on the beach, on account of the ſurf, they put aſhore at this cove, from whence there is a path-way, along the face of the cliff, to the town; but it is ſo narrow that two perſons cannot walk a-breaſt: near the end of this road is a gate, which is always ſhut after ſun-ſet, or when it turns dark, and then no man can

paſs

paſs that way. About a ſtone's throw from the beach begins the principal ſtreet of the town, and from thence runs ſtrait inland. The town is called La Villa de Palmas, i. e. the Town of Palms, becauſe of the number of palm-trees growing there. It has a church and convent of Friars, with about one hundred and fifty private houſes, moſt of which are but mean and ſmall. It is well ſupplied with good water, which the inhabitants draw from wells in every part of the town. In the winter-ſeaſon, a large rivulet, from the mountains, empties itſelf into the port. On the ſouth ſide of the mouth of this rivulet ſtands an old round tower, which was built by Don Miguel Peraza, the firſt Count of Gomera; and on the top of the perpendicular cliff, on the north ſide of the cove, is a chapel, and a battery of a few pieces of cannon for the defence of the port. As I have loſt the journals of the voyages in which I touched here, I cannot be ſo particular in giving directions to find this excellent port as I could wiſh; but, to the beſt of my remembrance, the land that forms the north point of the bay, is the moſt ſoutherly point of land on the eaſt ſide of Gomera, that can be ſeen from Point Teno in Tenerife. That land, when one is to the northward of it, at about a league diſtance, bears a great reſemblance to the *Ram-head, near Plymouth-ſound. In going into the bay it is neceſſary to ſtand cloſe in with this point, for the land-wind is commonly too ſcanty for a ſhip to fetch the proper anchoring-place; for that reaſon it is better to come in with the ſea-breeze, which generally begins to blow here about noon.

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THE beſt place for a ſhip to lie here, is where a full view may be had along through the main ſtreet of the town, and at about the diſtance of a cable's length from the beach: it is neceſſary to moor as ſoon as poſſible, becauſe of eddy-winds that ſometimes blow in the bay.

GOMERA, though not ſo large and populous as Palma, is a conſiderable iſland; for many rivulets flow from its craggy mountains, and water the narrow valleys; in ſhort, in every part of the iſland water may be found by digging the ground to about the depth of five or ſix feet. Among the fountains that abound here, the following are moſt eſteemed, viz. Chemele, Tegoay, and la Fuente del Conde, i. e. the Count's Fountain. No pines grow here, but many other kinds of trees, particularly barbuſanos *, mocanes, ſavines, adernos, vinatigos, files, palms, with a great number of maſtick-trees, which yield abundance of the gum of that name.

THE produce of this iſland is much the ſame with that of Tenerife, Canaria, or Palma. The natives have generally juſt corn enough for their own uſe, and ſeldom import nor export any. In this particular Gomera reſembles Gran Canaria, having almoſt every neceſſary within itſelf, and therefore ſtands in need of little or nothing from abroad; for corn, wine, roots, fruit, honey, cattle, and fowls † are here in great plenty: and was there encourage-

* The wood of the barbuſano is ſomething like mahogany, but blacker; when green it ſtinks moſt abominably.

† There are no turkeys in Gomera.

ment

ment in Gomera for induſtry, the natives could eaſily manufacture enough of their own wool and raw ſilk ſufficient to clothe themſelves: and here is ſtone, lime, timber, and all other materials fit for building, excepting iron.

THE Gomeran wine in general is weak, poor, and ſharp, therefore unfit for exportation? yet ſome of it, when two years old, excels the very beſt Madeira wine in taſte and flavour, although it is in colour fair as water, and weak as ſmall beer. I brought ſome dozens of this wine to London, where I ſhewed it to ſome people as a great curioſity; but they did not reliſh it, for the Engliſh eſteem no weak wine, let its taſte and flavour be ever ſo delicate. The wine-merchants in France, Spain, Portugal, and ſome other places, knowing this, take care to mix brandy even with the ſtrongeſt wines which they ſend to England.

BESIDES the animals common in the reſt of the iſlands, here is plenty of deer, which were originally brought hither from Barbary. More mules are bred in Gomera than in any of the ſeven iſlands; but I do not remember to have ſeen any camels here. Neither ſnakes or ſerpents are found in any of the Canary Iſlands except Gomera; but I have no reaſon to believe, by any thing I could learn, that they are venomous or do any harm.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Iſland of Hierro.

THIS iſland is about fifteen leagues in circumference, and five in breadth. It riſes ſteep and craggy from the ſea, on all ſides, for above a league, in ſuch a manner as to render the aſcent very difficult and fatiguing: after travelling this league, the reſt of the iſland will be found to be tolerably level and fruitful, for it abounds with many kinds of trees and ſhrubs, particularly pines, breſos, ſavines, laurels, palos blancos, adernos, barbuſanos, acevinos, mocanes, retamas, beech, eſcobones (of which the Spaniards make brooms or beſoms), and ſome palms; but no gum-dragon-trees grow here.

THIS iſland produces better graſs, herbs, and flowers than any of the other iſlands, ſo that bees thrive and multiply here extremely, and make excellent honey. The wine of Hierro is poor, weak, and bad, inſomuch that the natives are obliged to diſtil the greateſt part of it into brandy. There are only three fountains of water in the whole iſland, one of them is called Acof*, which in the language of the ancient inhabitants ſignifies River; a

* In the Azanaga dialect of the Lybian tongue, Aſeif ſignifies a River.

name,

name, however, which does not ſeem to have been given it on account of its yielding much water, for in that reſpect it hardly deſerves the name of a fountain. More to the northward is another, called Hapio; and in the middle of the iſland is a ſpring, yielding a ſtream about the thickneſs of a man's finger. This laſt was diſcovered in the year 1565, and is called the Fountain of Anton Hernandez. On account of the ſcarcity of water, the ſheep, goats, and ſwine here do not drink in the ſummer, but are taught to dig up the roots of fern, and chew them to quench their thirſt. The great cattle are watered at thoſe fountains, and at a place where water diſtils from the leaves of a tree. Many writers have made mention of this famous tree; ſome in ſuch a manner as to make it appear miraculous: others again deny the exiſtence of any ſuch tree, among whom is Father Feyjoo, a modern Spaniſh author, in his Theatro Critico. But he, and thoſe who agree with him in this matter, are as much miſtaken as they who would make it appear to be miraculous. This is the only iſland of all the Canaries which I have not been in; but I have ſailed with natives of Hierro, who when queſtioned about the exiſtence of this tree, anſwered in the affirmative.

The author of the Hiſtory of the Diſcovery and Conqueſt has given us a particular account of it, which I ſhall relate here at large.

"The diſtrict in which this tree ſtands is "called Tigulahe, near to which, and in the "cliff or ſteep rocky aſcent that ſurrounds the "whole iſland, is a narrow gutter or gulley, "which commences at the ſea, and continues

"to

" to the ſummit of the cliff, where it joins or " coincides with a valley, which is terminated " by the ſteep front of a rock. On the top of " this rock grows a tree, called, in the lan- " guage of the ancient inhabitants, Garſe, i. e. " Sacred or Holy Tree, which for many years " has been preſerved ſound, entire, and freſh. " Its leaves conſtantly diſtil ſuch a quantity of " water as is ſufficient to furniſh drink to every " living creature in Hierro; nature having " provided this remedy for the drought of the " iſland. It is ſituated about a league and a " half from the ſea. Nobody knows of what " ſpecies it is, only that it is called Til. It is " diſtinct from other trees, and ſtands by it- " ſelf; the circumference of the trunk is about " twelve ſpans, the diameter four, and in " height from the ground to the top of the " higheſt branch forty ſpans: the circum- " ference of all the branches together is one " hundred and twenty feet. The branches " are thick and extended; the loweſt com- " mence about the height of an ell from the " ground. Its fruit reſembles the acorn, and " taſtes ſomething like the kernel of a pine- " apple *, but is ſofter and more aromatic. " The leaves of this tree reſemble thoſe of " the laurel, but are larger, wider, and more " curved; they come forth in a perpetual ſuc- " ceſſion, ſo that the tree always remains green. " Near to it grows a thorn, which faſtens on

* Not the anana, but the fir or pine tree pear, nut, or apple. Thoſe of Britain have nothing in them; but the pine-apples in Spain, and ſome other countries, contain a kernel of an agreeable taſte.

" many

" many of its branches and interweaves with " them; and at a ſmall diſtance from the " Garſe are ſome beech-trees, breſos, and " thorns. On the north ſide of the trunk are " two large tanks or ciſterns of rough ſtone, " or rather one ciſtern divided, each half being " twenty feet ſquare, and ſixteen ſpans in " depth. One of theſe contains water for the " drinking of the inhabitants, and the other " that which they uſe for their cattle, waſh- " ing, and ſuch like purpoſes. Every morning, " near this part of the iſland, a cloud or miſt " ariſes from the ſea, which the ſouth and " eaſterly winds force againſt the fore-men- " tioned ſteep cliff; ſo that the cloud, having " no vent but by the gutter, gradually aſcends " it, and from thence advances ſlowly to the " extremity of the valley, where it is ſtopped " and checked by the front of the rock which " terminates the valley, and then reſts upon " the thick leaves and wide-ſpreading branches " of the tree, from whence it diſtils in drops " during the remainder of the day, until it is " at length exhauſted, in the ſame manner " that we ſee water drip from the leaves of " trees after a heavy ſhower of rain. This " diſtillation is not peculiar to the garſe, or " til, for the breſos, which grow near it, like- " wiſe drop water; but their leaves being but " few and narrow, the quantity is ſo trifling, " that though the natives ſave ſome of it, yet " they make little or no account of any but " what diſtils from the til; which, together " with the water of ſome fountains, and what " is ſaved in the winter-ſeaſon, is ſufficient to " ſerve them and their flocks. This tree yields

moſt

" moſt water in thoſe years when the Levant " or eaſterly winds have prevailed for a conti- " nuance; for by theſe winds only, the clouds " or miſts are drawn hither from the ſea. A " perſon lives on the ſpot near which this tree " grows, who is appointed by the Council to " take care of it and its water, and is allowed " a houſe to live in, with a certain ſalary. He " every day diſtributes to each family of the " diſtrict, ſeven pots or veſſels full of water, " beſides what he gives to the principal people " of the iſland."

WHETHER the tree which yields water at this preſent time be the ſame as that mentioned in the above deſcription, I cannot pretend to determine, but it is probable there has been a ſucceſſion of them; for Pliny, deſcribing the Fortunate Iſlands, ſays, " In the mountains of " Ombrion are trees, reſembling the plant fe- " rula, from which water may be procured " by preſſure: what comes from the black " kind is bitter, but that which the white yields " is ſweet and potable."

TREES yielding water are not peculiar to the iſland of Hierro, for travellers inform us of one of the ſame kind in the iſland of St. Thomas, in the bight or gulph of Guinea. In Cock- burn's Voyages we find the following account of a dropping tree near the mountains of Vera Paz, in America.

" ON the morning of the fourth day we " came out on a large plain, where were great " numbers of fine deer; and in the middle " ſtood a tree of unuſual ſize, ſpreading its " branches over a vaſt compaſs of ground. " Curioſity led us up to it: we had perceived,

at

" at ſome diſtance off, the ground about it to " be wet, at which we began to be ſomewhat " ſurpriſed, as well knowing there had no rain " fallen for near ſix months paſt, according to " the certain courſe of the ſeaſon in that lati- " tude; that it was impoſſible to be occaſioned " by the fall of dew on the tree, we were con- " vinced by the ſun's having power to exhale " away all moiſture of that nature a few mi- " nutes after its riſing. At laſt, to our great " amazement as well as joy, we ſaw water " dropping, or as it were diſtilling, faſt from " the end of every leaf of this wonderful (nor " had it been amiſs if I had ſaid miraculous) " tree; at leaſt it was ſo with reſpect to us, " who had been labouring four days through " extreme heat, without receiving the leaſt " moiſture, and were now almoſt expiring for " the want of it.

" We could not help looking on this as li- " quor ſent from heaven to comfort and ſup- " port us under great extremity. We catched " what we could of it in our hands, and drank " very plentifully of it, and liked it ſo well " that we could hardly prevail with ourſelves " to give over. A matter of this nature could " not but excite us to make the ſtricteſt obſer- " vations concerning it, and accordingly we " ſtaid under the tree near three hours, and " found we could not fathom its body in five " times. We obſerved the ſoil where it grew " to be very ſtony; and, upon the niceſt en- " quiry we could afterwards make, both of " the natives of the country and the Spaniſh " inhabitants, we could not learn there was " any ſuch tree known throughout New Spain,

nor

" nor perhaps all America over: but I do not " relate this as a prodigy in nature, becauſe I " am not philoſopher enough to aſcribe any " natural cauſe for it; the learned may, per- " haps, give ſubſtantial reaſon in nature, for " what appeared to us as a great and marvel- " lous ſecret.".

If I am not miſtaken, there is only one pariſh church in the whole iſland, and no conſiderable town. The port or anchoring-place I am not acquainted with, having never been there; but am informed it is an open road, and but little frequented, excepting by boats and ſmall barks.

As I have now given ſome deſcription of all the Canary Iſlands, I ſhall proceed to deſcribe the manners and cuſtoms of the natives, their trade, policy, &c. But before I enter on that ſubject, it will not be improper to give ſome account of the iſlands, rather rocks, called the Salvages; becauſe by ſome they are reckoned as part of the Canary Iſlands. They lie twenty-ſeven leagues north from Point Nago in Tenerife. The chief iſland is high and rocky, and is about a league in circumference. Three or four leagues ſouth-weſt from this iſland is another, which reſembles the largeſt Needle rock at the weſt end of the Iſle of Wight. Between thoſe iſlands are many rocks and ſands, ſome of which are above and others under water; therefore it is dangerous, for thoſe who are not well acquainted with thoſe iſlands, to approach them, except on the eaſt ſide of the great iſland. I have ſailed paſt it this way, within the diſtance of a ſtone's throw. People who come to this iſland, anchor ſome-

where on the ſouth-eaſt ſide. It produces nothing but orchilla-weed. Here are great plenty of cormorants, or ſea-fowls reſembling them. Some barks and boats from the Canary Iſlands frequent the Salvages in the ſummer in queſt of wrecks and thoſe ſea-fowls. They catch the young in their neſts, kill and ſalt them, and then carry them to Tenerife for ſale. The Salvages, though uninhabited, belong to the Portugueze, who reckon them as dependent on the iſland of Madeira, and although they ſcarcely ever viſit them, yet they will not allow the Spaniards to gather orchilla-weed there. Some years ago a few fiſhermen went thither in a bark from Tenerife, in queſt of wrecks; but not finding any, they went aſhore and gathered about half a ton of orchilla-weed. When this was known at Madeira, the Portugueze made complaint thereof to the Governor-general of the Canary Iſlands, and would not be ſatisfied till the poor maſter of the bark was thrown into priſon, where he remained a long time. The Portugueze, in this affair, behaved ſomewhat like the Engliſh, who will neither be at the trouble to catch fiſh in what they call their own ſeas, nor ſuffer others to catch them, without complaining of it as a matter of tranſgreſſion.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Natives of Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro; their Perſons, Dreſs, and Buildings.

WE have already ſhewn, in the Hiſtory of the Diſcovery and Conqueſt of theſe iſlands, who were the firſt inhabitants thereof, and in what manner the Spaniards and other Europeans incorporated with them, ſo as that theſe different nations became at length one people.

THE deſcendants of this mingled nation are now denominated Spaniards, and uſe no other language than the Caſtillian: the gentry ſpeak it in perfection, but the peaſants, who inhabit the remote parts of the iſlands, in a manner almoſt unintelligible to ſtrangers; their pronunciation being ſuch as not unaptly to be compared to a man talking with ſomething in his mouth.

THE natives here are of a ſpare habit of body, middle ſized, tolerably well ſhaped, have good features, and complexions more deeply ſwarthy than thoſe of the natives of the ſouthern parts of Spain: but they have fine large ſparkling black eyes, which give a vivacity and dazzling luſtre to the countenance, inſomuch that in my opinion there are as many handſome people to be found here (in propor-

tion to the number of inhabitants) as in England. For the Engliſh, though excelling all the people I have ſeen in fineneſs and freſhneſs of complexion, yet their countenances in general are dull and unmeaning, when compared with thoſe of the natives of the Canary Iſlands: yet, upon the whole, it muſt be owned that the old people here look more like demons than the human kind.

THE peaſants are cloathed after the modern faſhion of the Spaniards, which is much the ſame with the habit of the common people in England, only with this difference, that here the natives, when dreſſed, wear long cloaks inſtead of upper coats; but the peaſants of Canaria uſe, inſtead of the cloak, an upper garment faſtened about the middle by a faſh or girdle. This garment is white, long, and narrow, having a neck like an Engliſh riding-coat, and is made of the wool of their own ſheep. All the lower ſort of people in theſe iſlands wear their own hair, which is black, and generally buſhy; they let it grow to a great length, and, when they dreſs, comb it out in ſuch a manner, that the faſhion of wearing hair at preſent here, ſeems to be the ſame as that which prevailed in England in the reign of King James I. They tuck the hair of the right ſide of the head behind the right ear.

THE gentlemen, inſtead of their own hair, wear white perukes, which form an odd contraſt to their duſky complexions. They never put on their perukes, upper coats, or ſwords, but when they pay formal viſits, walk in proceſſions, or go to church on high feſtivals: at other times their habit is a linen night-cap bordered

bordered or ruffled with cambrick or lace, and above it a broad-brimmed hat ſlouched, and, inſtead of a coat, a long wide camblet cloak of a raiſin or black colour. They never wear an upper coat without a ſword, and generally walk with the hat under the arm.

The women of the lower rank wear on their heads a coarſe linen gauze, which falls down upon their ſhoulders; they pin it together under the chin, ſo that the lower part ſerves as a handkerchief to cover the neck and breaſts. Above this (when they go abroad) they wear a broad-brimmed hat ſlouched, to ſhelter their faces from the ſun; and on their ſhoulders a mantle of baiſe, flannel, or ſay. They uſe no ſtays, but inſtead of them a ſhort tight jackt, laced before. They wear many petticoats, which make them appear uncommonly bulky; but the poor people who live in towns, wear veils when they walk the ſtreets; theſe are made of black ſay, and in the form of two petticoats, one above the other: when they go abroad, they take the upper fold and bring it over the head, wrapping it ſo cloſe about them that no part of the face is ſeen but one eye; thus they behold every body they meet, without being known, for all their veils are of the ſame colour and ſtuff, except thoſe of the ladies, which are made of ſilk.

In Santa Cruz in the iſland of Tenerife, and in the city of Palmas in Canaria, ſome of the moſt faſhionable ladies go abroad in their chariots, dreſſed after the modes of the French and Engliſh; but none walk the ſtreets unveiled, yet the ladies now-a-days

wear them ſo open, that any body may diſcover the whole face, the neck, and even a part of the breaſts. The young ladies wear no cap or any thing elſe on their heads, but have their fine long black hair plaited, tucked up behind, and laid on the crown of the head, where it is faſtened by a gold comb. They wear no ſtays, but tight ſhort jackets, like the common people, only with this difference, that they are made of finer ſtuff: they alſo wear mantles of ſcarlet cloth or fine white flannel, laced with gold or ſilver. The moſt expenſive part of their dreſs is their bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and other jewels.

In theſe iſlands there are ſcarcely to be ſeen even among people of the firſt rank, either a man or woman who walks with an eaſy and graceful air. This imperfection is owing to nothing elſe than their going abroad almoſt conſtantly veiled, or covered with long cloaks, ſo that the women are not known, conſequently they care not how they walk; and the mens motions are hid by their long cloaks: when they lay them aſide, and dreſs in upper coats, and wear ſwords, canes, and perukes, with their hats under their arms, they make the moſt ſtiff, awkward, and ridiculous appearance imaginable.

Those people who have been bred in England, muſt not expect to find ſuch cleanlineſs of perſon every where abroad, as in their own country, eſpecially among the lower ſort of people. Here the poor are remarkably louſy, and are not aſhamed of it, for the women may be ſeen ſitting at the doors of their houſes picking the lice out of one another's heads.

The

The itch is common among all ranks, and they take no pains to cure it. The ſame may be ſaid of venereal diſorders, although this laſt diſtemper is not quite ſo general as the firſt.

THE food of the common people in the country is generally goſſio, fruit, and wine, with ſalt-fiſh, which is brought to thoſe iſlands from the coaſt of Barbary in great abundance. Some think that the itch, ſo frequent here, is owing to the natives eating ſo much of that food. Freſh fiſh in the ſummer is tolerably plenty, but at other times more ſcarce and dear. I need not here deſcribe the food of the gentry, becauſe in all countries they live on the beſt.

THE houſes of the peaſants and lower ſort of people are of one ſtory, and built of ſtone and lime: the roofs are either thatched or tiled. Theſe houſes are generally neat, commodious, and clean; indeed there is little dirt or duſt in theſe iſlands to make them naſty, becauſe the ground is moſtly rocky, and, by reaſon of the almoſt continual fine weather, is rarely wet. The walls of the houſes here are built of ſtone and lime, the roofs are covered with pantiles, and the beams, rafters, and floors are all of pines. Thoſe of people of rank are two ſtories high, four-ſquare, with an open court in the middle, much like our public inns in England, having, like them, balconies on the inſide of each ſquare of the houſe, and which are on a level with the floor of the ſecond ſtory. The ſtreet-door is placed in the middle of the front of the houſe; within that door is a ſecond; the ſpace between them is the breadth of the rooms of the houſe:

this place is called La Casa Puerta, the outer door of which is generally open all day long, and shut in the evening. When you enter the inner door of the casa puerta, you come to the Patio, or court-yard, which is large or small according to the size of the house, and is generally paved with flags, pebbles, or some other stones. In the centre of the court, is a square or circular stone wall, of about the height of four feet, filled with earth, in which are commonly planted banana, orange, or other sort of trees. All the lower story of each quarter of the house, are store-rooms or cellars. The stairs leading to the second story, generally commence at the right or left hand corners, next the door of the court as one enters it, and consist of two flights of steps, which lead into the gallery, from whence one may have access to any quarter of the second story, without going through the rooms of any of them. The principal apartments are commonly in that quarter of the house facing the street, which contains a hall, with an apartment at each end thereof. These rooms are the whole breadth of the quarter, and the hall is just as long again as any of the apartments at its extremities. The windows of these rooms are formed of wooden lattices, curiously wrought, and are all in the outside wall, none of them looking inwards to the court. In the middle of the front-quarter of some great houses, on the outside above the gate, and equal with the floor of the second story, is a balcony; some have a gallery running from one end of the quarter to the other: but this is not common on the outside of the house.

The

The apartments are all white-washed; those at the extremities of the great hall, and some of the rest, are lined with fine mats, to about the height of five feet from the floor, which is sometimes covered with the same stuff. The sides of the windows of all the rooms are lined with boards, to prevent people's cloaths from being whitened by the lime, because the window is the place where they commonly sit, there being benches on each side of it for that purpose; and a stranger is always conducted to the window by the master of the house, when he intends to shew him respect. The inside of the walls of the great hall, and of some of the rest of the apartments, is hung with paintings, which are representations of the Virgin, the twelve apostles, saints, and martyrs, generally drawn as big as the life, and distinguished by some particular circumstance of their history; for instance, St. Peter is represented looking at a cock and weeping, a great bunch of keys hanging at his girdle. St. Anthony, as preaching to the fishes. I do not remember to have seen one profane picture in any of the natives houses, nor even a map. They seldom use curtains to their beds in these islands, looking on them as receptacles for buggs and fleas, which abound and multiply here exceedingly. What they chiefly use are mattresses, which they spread on the floor upon fine mats: besides the bed-linen, there is a blanket, and above that a silk quilt; the sheet, pillows, and quilt are generally fringed, or pinked in the very same manner as the shroud for a dead corpse in some parts of Europe.

In a particular apartment in every houſe there is a place raiſed a ſtep higher than the floor, which is covered with mats or carpets; there the women commonly ſit together upon cuſhions, do their domeſtic buſineſs, and receive viſits from their own ſex.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Manners, Cuſtoms, and Genius of the Natives of Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro.

THE natives of theſe iſlands, although their deportment is grave, are extremely quick and ſenſible. The women are remarkable for their vivacity and ſprightly converſation, which far exceeds that of the French, Engliſh, or other northern nations. This agreeable lively humour is not peculiar to the inhabitants of thoſe iſlands, but is common to thoſe of the temperate countries, particularly the northern part of Africa, as I ſhall have occaſion to mention in the account which I intend to give of that country.

The Baron de Monteſquieu has been very particular in telling us what effect the air and climate has upon the temper and genius of the inhabitants of different countries; but although no attentive traveller can ever be perſuaded to agree with him in his notions of theſe things, yet we may venture to aſſert with truth, that the

the natives of the temperate climates are naturally endowed with more ſenſe, penetration, and quickneſs of apprehenſion, than thoſe of the countries ſituated to the ſouthward or northward of them: for, to whatever cauſe it may be owing, it is certain, that the northern nations, Blacks and Indians, are a heavy, phlegmatic, and ſtupid people, when compared with the Libyans, Arabs, Spaniards, and Canarians: but this difference cannot be ſo well obſerved, as in ſuch of theſe people as have not had the advantages of education, but are left entirely to nature.

THE great families in thoſe iſlands would be highly offended, if any one ſhould tell them that they are deſcended from the Moors, or even the ancient inhabitants of theſe iſlands; yet I imagine it would be no difficult matter to prove, that moſt of their amiable cuſtoms have been handed down to them from thoſe people, and that they have inherited little elſe from the Gothic ſide, but barbarity. Yet the Canarian gentry, and all the Spaniards, are proud of being thought to have deſcended from the Goths.

THE gentry of theſe iſlands boaſt much of their birth, and with reaſon; for they are deſcended from ſome of the beſt families in Spain. It is ſaid that the Count of Gomera is the true heir to the honours of the houſe of Medina Celi *, but is not able to aſſert his juſt title, becauſe of the great influence the preſent Duke has at the court of Madrid, from

* The Duke of this name, is one of the Grandees of Spain.

his

his immenſe fortune. The gentry here have ſome privileges, which I cannot ſpecify, but they are trifling. I remember when a Scots Gentleman of family, a phyſician in Canaria, wanted to obtain the rank of nobility in that iſland, he was obliged to produce a certificate from his native country, that there never had been a butcher, taylor, miller, or porter in his family. This was not difficult to procure, as he came from a remote part of the Highlands of Scotland, where very few follow any handicraft. It is not to be wondered at, that the profeſſion of a butcher ſhould not be eſteemed, or that of a taylor, which laſt is a profeſſion rather too effeminate for men to be employed in; but why millers and porters ſhould be held in contempt, is hard to imagine; eſpecially the former, who are an inoffenſive ſet of men, and abſolutely neceſſary in almoſt every country: it is true, indeed, that here they are great thieves, for each family ſends its own corn to the mill, where, unleſs it is narrowly looked after, the miller generally makes an handſome toll. I have been informed, that when any criminal is to ſuffer death, and the proper executioner happens be out of the way, the officers of juſtice may ſeize the firſt butcher, miller, or porter they can find, and compel him to perform that diſagreeable office.

I REMEMBER that once when I touched at the iſland of Gomera, to procure freſh water, I hired ſome miſerable poor ragged fiſhermen to fill our water-caſks and bring them on board: ſome time after, I went to the watering-place to ſee what progreſs they had made, when I found

found the casks full, and all ready for rolling down to the beach, with the fishermen standing by, conversing together as if they had nothing to do. I reprimanded them for their sloth, in not dispatching the business I employed them in; when one of them, with a disdainful air, replied, "What do you take "us to be, Sir? do you imagine we are por-"ters? no, Sir, we are seamen." Notwithstanding all my intreaties, and promises of reward, I could not prevail on any of them to put their hands to the casks to roll them to the water-side, but was obliged to hire porters.

In another voyage I happened to have several Canarian seamen on board, among whom was a boy from Palma, who had been a butcher's apprentice or servant: the seamen would not eat with him for a long time, until I came to understand it, when I obliged them to mess all together, though my order was not obeyed without much grumbling and discontent.

Another time, a patron of one of the Canary fishing-boats came aboard our ship, on the coast of Barbary, and breakfasted with us; besides ourselves, there were then at table a Jew (our interpreter) and a Moor; when the patron (or master of the bark) took me aside, and gravely reprimanded me for bringing him into such bad company; "For (add-"ded he) although I am obliged by necessity "to earn my bread by the fishery on this "coast, yet I am an old Christian of clean "blood, and scorn to sit in company with "many in Santa Cruz who are called Gentle-"men, yet cannot clear themselves from the

"charge

" charge of having a mixture of Jewiſh and " Mooriſh blood in their veins."

THE gentry of theſe iſlands are commonly poor, yet extremely polite and well bred. The peaſants and labouring poor are not without a conſiderable ſhare of good manners, and have little of that ſurly ruſticity, which is ſo common among the lower kind of people in England; yet they do not ſeem to be abaſhed or aſhamed in preſence of their ſuperiors. When a beggar aſks alms of a gentleman, he addreſſes him in this manner, " For the love of " God, Sir, pleaſe to give me half a rial." If the other does not chooſe to give him any thing, he replies in a civil manner, " May " your worſhip excuſe me, for the love of " God." The ſervants and common people are exceſſively addicted to pilfering, for which they are ſeldom otherwiſe puniſhed, than by being turned off, beaten when detected, or impriſoned for a ſhort time. Robberies are ſeldom or ever committed here; but murder is more common than in England, the natives of theſe iſlands being addicted to revenge. I do not remember to have heard of any duels among them, for they cannot comprehend how a man's having courage to fight, can atone for the injury he hath done his antagoniſt. The conſequence of killing a man here, is that the murderer flies to a church for refuge, until he can find an opportunity to eſcape out of the country: if he had been greatly provoked or injured by the deceaſed, and did not kill him premeditately, or in cold blood, he will find every body ready to aſſiſt him in his endeavours to eſcape, except the near relations

of

of the murdered perſon. Nevertheleſs quarrels are not ſo frequent here as in England; which may in part be owing to the fatal conſequences they are attended with, or the want of coffee-houſes, taverns, or other public houſes; and alſo by reaſon of the temperance of the gentry in drinking, and their polite behaviour, with the little intercourſe there is among them.

THE common people do not fight together in public like the Engliſh; but if one perſon offends another, ſo as to put him in a violent paſſion, the injured party, if he is able, takes vengeance on the aggreſſor in the beſt manner he can, without regard to what we call fair play, until ſuch time as he thinks he has got ſufficient ſatisfaction of his body equal to the injury received: but quarrelling in public is looked on as highly indecent, and therefore does not often happen.

THE natives of theſe iſlands are temperate in their eating and drinking. If a gentleman was to be ſeen drunk in public, it would be a laſting ſtain on his reputation. I am informed, that the evidence of a man who can be proved a drunkard, will not be taken in a court of juſtice; therefore all people here, who have a ſtrong inclination to wine, ſhut themſelves up in their bed-chambers, drink their fill there, then get into bed and ſleep it off.

THE gentry are extremely litigious, and generally entangled in intricate and endleſs law-ſuits. I happened to be in a Notary's office, in the iſland of Gomera, where obſerving huge bundles of papers piled upon the ſhelves, I enquired of the Notary if it was

poſſible

poſſible that all the law-buſineſs of that little iſland could ſwell to ſuch a quantity of writings? he replied, that he had almoſt twice as much piled up in two cellars; and ſaid there was another of his profeſſion in the ſame place, who had as much if not more buſineſs than himſelf.

PEOPLE of all ranks in theſe iſlands are of an amorous diſpoſition; their notions of love are ſomewhat romantic, which may be owing to the want of innocent freedom between the ſexes; yet I never could obſerve that the natives here are more jealous than the Engliſh or French, although they have been ſo repreſented by thoſe nations. The truth of the matter is, that in every country, cuſtom has eſtabliſhed between the ſexes, certain bounds of decency and decorum, beyond which no perſon will go, without a bad intention; for inſtance, freedoms are taken with women in France, which are there reckoned innocent; but would not be ſuffered by ladies in England, who have any regard for their virtue or reputation: again, in England virtuous women allow men to uſe ſuch freedoms with them, as no virtuous woman in theſe iſlands could bear with: yet in France there are no more looſe women, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, than in the Canary Iſlands.

YOUNG people here fall in love at ſight, without having the leaſt acquaintance with the beloved object. When the parties agree to marry, and find their parents averſe to their union, they inform the Curate of the pariſh of the affair, who goes to the houſe where the girl lives, demands her of her parents or guardians,

guardians, and endeavours to bring them to agree to her marriage; but if they will not be perſuaded to give their conſent, he takes her away before their faces without their being able to hinder him, and depoſits her in a nunnery, or with ſome of her relations, until he marries them.

I AM informed that it is not uncommon for a lady here to ſend to a man, and make him an offer of her perſon in an honourable way; if he does not think proper to accept of her offer, he keeps it ſecret till death; if he ſhould do otherwiſe, he would be looked upon by all people, in the moſt deteſtable and deſpicable light. Young men are not permitted to court young girls, when they have no intention to marry them; for if a woman can prove that a man has, in the leaſt inſtance, endeavoured to win her affections, ſhe can oblige him to marry her.

I DO not remember to have ever ſailed from the Canary Iſlands, without being ſtrongly importuned to allow young fellows to embark with me, who were under promiſe of marriage and wanted to forſake their miſtreſſes. I remember to have ſeen a man at Orotava, who ſome years before, had lived at Gomera, where he courted a girl, and gained her conſent to be his wife; but ſuddenly repenting of what he had done, and finding no other means of getting away from her, he took the advantage of the firſt weſterly wind, and boldly embarked in an open boat, without oars, ſails, or rudder, and launched into the ocean; he was driven before the wind and ſeas for two days and nights, when at laſt he drew near the

rocky

rocky ſhore adjacent to Adehe in Tenerife, where he muſt have periſhed, had it not been for ſome fiſhermen, who perceiving his boat, went off, and brought her to a ſafe harbour.

THIS law, obliging people to adhere to their love-engagements, like many other good laws, is abuſed; for by means of it, looſe women, who have not loſt their reputation, often lay ſnares to entrap the ſimple and unwary; and worthleſs ambitious young men form deſigns upon ladies fortunes, without having the leaſt regard for their perſons: although it muſt be owned there are few mercenary lovers in this part of the world, their notions of that paſſion being too refined and romantic to admit the idea of making it ſubſervient to intereſt or ambition.

A YOUNG lady in one of theſe iſlands fell deeply in love with a gentleman, and uſed every art ſhe was miſtreſs of to captivate his heart, but in vain; at laſt, being hurried on by the violence of her paſſion, which rendered her quite deſperate, ſhe made uſe of the following ſtratagem to oblige him to marry her. She proſecuted him upon a promiſe of marriage, which ſhe pretended he had made to her, and ſuborned witneſſes who ſwore they had ſeen him in bed with her. The evidence appeared ſo clear to the court, that, without the leaſt heſitation, it gave a ſentence for the plaintiff, compelling the defendant to marry her. With this unjuſt ſentence he was obliged to comply, though with the utmoſt regret; for as the lady had ſhewn ſo little regard for her reputation, as to ſwear falſy to her own ſhame, he could look upon her in no other light,

light, than that of a looſe and abandoned woman: however he was agreeably diſappointed, and had all poſſible reaſon to believe ſhe was a virgin. Being amazed at her ſtrange conduct, he entreated her to unravel the myſtery of her unaccountable behaviour; "For "(ſaid he) you muſt be ſenſible that I am in- "nocent of what you have ſworn againſt me." She frankly owned the whole affair, and added for an excuſe, that ſhe would rather have lived in hell, than not to have obtained the object of her love. Upon this declaration he generouſly forgave her, and they afterwards lived happily together.

GENERALLY ſpeaking, there are more unhappy marriages here, than in thoſe countries where young people have more acceſs to be acquainted with one another's diſpoſitions before they agree to live together for life. In countries where innocent freedoms ſubſiſt between the ſexes, lovers are generally not ſo blinded with paſſion, that they cannot perceive their miſtreſſes are mortal, and partake of human frailty, conſequently reſolve to put up with ſome failings: but this thought never enters into the imagination of a romantic lover.

GENTLEMEN here get up by day-break, or at ſun-riſing, and commonly go to church ſoon after, to hear maſs; at eight or nine in the morning they breakfaſt on chocolate. The ladies ſeldom go to maſs before ten o'clock in the forenoon; but the women-ſervants generally attend it about ſun-riſing. At the elevation of the hoſt, which is commonly a little before noon, the bells toll, when all the men who

who happen to be in the ſtreets, or within hearing, take off their hats, and ſay, "I a-"dore thee and praiſe thee, body and blood "of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, ſhed on the tree "of the croſs, to waſh the ſins of the world."

At noon every body goes home to dinner, when all the ſtreet-doors are ſhut until three in the afternoon. In gentlemen's houſes, the firſt diſh which is put on the table contains ſoup, made of beef, mutton, pork, bacon, carrots, turnips, potatoes, peas, onions, ſaffron, &c. all ſtewed together: when it is poured into the diſh, they put in it thin ſlices of bread. The ſecond courſe conſiſts of roaſted meat, &c. The third is the olio, or ingredients of which the ſoup was made. After which comes the deſert, conſiſting of fruit and ſweetmeats. The company drink freely of wine, or wine and water, all the time of dinner; but no wine after the cloth is removed. When they drink to one another, they ſay, "Your health, Sir;" or, "Madam, "your health." The anſwer is, "May you "live a thouſand years;" and ſometimes, "Much good may it do you." Immediately after dinner, a large heavy, ſhallow, ſilver diſh, filled with water, is put upon the table, when the whole company all at once put their hands into the water, and waſh; after which a ſervant ſtands at the lower end of the table, and repeats the following benediction, "Bleſ-"ſed and praiſed be the moſt holy ſacrament "of the altar, and the clear and pure con-"ception of the moſt holy Virgin, conceived "in grace from the firſt inſtant of her natu-"ral exiſtence. Ladies and gentlemen, much

"good

"good may it do you." So making a low bow to the company, he retires; when they riſe, and each goes to his apartment, to take a nap for about an hour; this is called the Sieſto, and is very beneficial in a warm climate; for after one awakes from it, he finds himſelf refreſhed and fit to go about his affairs with ſpirit: yet the medical gentlemen here condemn this cuſtom, and ſay it is pernicious to the conſtitution; but how can a thing be prejudicial to health, that nature compels a man to? for in hot countries there is no avoiding a ſhort nap after dinner, without doing violence to nature, eſpecially where people get up by day-break.

THE gentry ſeldom give an entertainment without having a Friar for one of the gueſts, who is generally the Confeſſor to ſome of the family. Some of theſe people, on thoſe occaſions, take much upon them, and behave with great freedom, or rather ill manners; yet the maſter of the houſe and his gueſts do not chooſe to rebuke them, but let them have their own way. I happened once to go to dine at a gentleman's houſe in one of the iſlands, when a Franciſcan Friar was one of the gueſts; we had ſcarce begun to eat, when the Friar aſked me if I was a Chriſtian? I replied, "I hope ſo." Then he deſired me to repeat the Apoſtles Creed. I anſwered, that I knew nothing about it. Upon this he ſtared me full in the face, and ſaid, "O thou black "aſs!" I aſked him what he meant by treating me in that manner? he anſwered only by repeating the ſame abuſe. The maſter of the houſe endeavoured, but in vain, to perſuade him

him to give over. As at that time I did not underſtand Spaniſh ſo well as to expreſs myſelf fluently, I roſe up, and told the maſter of the houſe, I ſaw he was not able to protect me from inſults at his own table: then taking my hat, I went away.

In the morning and evening viſits, gueſts are preſented with chocolate and ſweetmeats; but in the ſummer evenings with ſnow-water. People here ſup between eight and nine, and retire to reſt ſoon after.

CHAP. XVI.

Of the Amuſements of the Inhabitants of the Canary Iſlands; and of the State of Learning among them.

EACH of the Canary Iſlands, and every town or village in it, has ſome particular ſaint for its patron, whoſe day is celebrated as a feſtival by a particular ſervice in the church, where a ſermon is preached in honour of the ſaint.

On theſe occaſions the ſtreet near the church is ſtrewed with leaves of trees, flowers, &c. a great number of wax tapers are lighted, and a conſiderable quantity of gun-powder expended in fire-works. The money neceſſary for defraying the expence of theſe feſtivals, is commonly raiſed by a contribution among the pariſhioners. On the eve of that day there is generally

generally a kind of fair, to which the people of the adjacent country flock, and ſpend the greateſt part of the night in jollity and dancing to the ſound of the guittar, accompanied by the voices of the dancers, and of thoſe who play on that inſtrument. Many ſorts of dances are practiſed here, particularly Zarabands and Folias, which are ſlow dances; the tune they always play to the laſt-mentioned, is the ſame with that which we call Joy to great Cæſar, &c. The quick dances are the Canario, Fandango, and Zapateo: the firſt of theſe was the dance uſed by the ancient Canarians; the ſecond is that which is now moſtly practiſed by the vulgar; and the laſt is much the ſame with our hornpipe.

Some of theſe dances may be called dramatic, for the men ſing verſes to their partners, who anſwer them in the ſame manner. Theſe iſlanders have commonly excellent voices, and there are but few of them who cannot play on the guittar.

On the feaſt of the tutelar ſaints of Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma, plays are acted in the ſtreets for the amuſement of the multitude; but as the performers are not actors by profeſſion, being ſome of the inhabitants of the place, who have a natural turn that way, it cannot be expected they ſhould attain to any degree of excellence in theſe exhibitions.

Every family of eminence has its particular ſaint or patron, to whoſe honour a feſtival is held at a great expence: on ſuch occaſions the gentry vie with one another in coſtly entertainments and ſplendor.

THE diverſions among the vulgar, beſides ſinging, playing on the guittar, and dancing, are wreſtling, cards, quoits, and throwing a ball through a ring, which is placed at a great diſtance off.

THE gentry frequently take the air on horſeback: and the ladies, when obliged to travel, ride on aſſes; and uſe, inſtead of a ſaddle, a ſort of chair, which is very commodious. The principal roads in theſe iſlands, are paved with pebble ſtones of the ſame kind, with thoſe uſed in the ſtreets of London.

THERE are a few chariots in the city of Palmas in Canaria, the town of Santa Cruz, and the city of Laguna in Tenerife; but they are kept more for ſhew than utility, for the roads here are ſteep and rocky, and therefore unfit for wheel-carriages: they are all drawn by mules.

THE peaſants, eſpecially thoſe of Gomera, have an art of leaping from rock to rock, when they travel: the method is this: a man carries a long pole or ſtaff, with an iron ſpike at the end of it; and when he wants to deſcend from one rock to another, he aims the point of his pole at the place where he intends to light, throws himſelf towards it, and pitches the end of the pole ſo as to bring it to a perpendicular, and then ſlides down gently upon it to the ground.

THE Engliſh and other foreigners in the Canary Iſlands, complain much of the want of good phyſicians and ſurgeons, and not without cauſe; for what other reaſon can be aſſigned for the natives being ſo over-run with the

itch

itch and venereal diſorders, which might be ſo eaſily eradicated?

THE diſeaſes moſt predominant here, beſides the above mentioned, are the Tabardilla, or ſpotted fever; and the Flatos, a windy diſorder affecting the bowels, ſtomach, and head. The palſy is frequent here, and prevails moſtly among the aged. The ague is a diſorder peculiar to the iſland of Gomera, for it is ſcarcely known in the other iſlands. A few of the natives are afflicted with the leproſy: as it is reckoned incurable, there is an hoſpital at Gran Canaria, ſet apart for the reception of the unhappy ſufferers by that loathſome diſtemper. The moment a man of fortune is adjudged to be a leper, his whole effects are ſeized for the uſe of the hoſpital, without leaving any part for the ſupport of his family: but poor people who are infected with this diſorder, are left to ſubſiſt the beſt way they can, or periſh in the ſtreets. The Directors of the hoſpital are the ſole judges of the leproſy, from whoſe determination there is no appeal.

THE children here are taught in the convents reading, writing, Latin, arithmetic, logic, and ſome other branches of philoſophy. Greek is never learned here, not even by the ſtudents in divinity. The Latin authors which ſcholars read are the claſſics.

HAPPENING to be in company with one of the moſt learned ſtudents of all the iſlands, he examined me particularly concerning the ſtate of learning in England, and what branch of it was moſt in eſteem there: after ſatisfying him in thoſe particulars, I enquired in my turn

what ſtudies prevailed in theſe iſlands; he replied, that juriſprudence and logic were thoſe moſt eſteemed, but chiefly the latter, which was his favourite ſtudy. When he found I had not learned it, he reprimanded me for want of taſte, and informed me that my countryman Duns Scotus was the beſt logician that ever the world produced.

THE natives of the Canary Iſlands have a genius for poetry, and compoſe verſes of different meaſures, which they ſet to muſic. I have ſeen ſome ſongs there, which would be greatly eſteemed in any country, where a taſte for poetry prevails. I once had in my poſſeſſion ſome ſatirical verſes, compoſed by the Marquis de San André, of Tenerife, which were moſt excellent, and inferior to none I have yet ſeen, although he was no leſs than ſeventy-five years of age when he wrote them.

THE books moſt commonly read by the laity, are the lives of ſaints and martyrs. Theſe performances are ſtuffed with legends and curious fables. Thomas à Kempis and the Devout Pilgrim are in every library here, and are much admired. The firſt of theſe is ſo well known in England, that I have no occaſion to ſay any more of it. The Devout Pilgrim is a deſcription of a journey to the Holy Land, with an account of every thing there worthy of a pilgrim's notice; to which are added particular inſtructions and advice to thoſe who undertake that journey. As our Methodiſts and other religious ſects in England look on the Roman Catholics, as a people void of ſuch ſort of piety as they value themſelves upon,

upon, and of which they make their boaſt, although it conſiſts in nothing elſe than high-ſounding words; I ſay, becauſe they deſpiſe the Roman Catholics, let them read the following extract from the Devout Pilgrim:

Our author having given directions to thoſe who may be deſirous to undertake a journey to the Holy Land, ſets the example of two pilgrims before their eyes, which, ſays he, you ought to copy. "One of theſe pilgrims, "after having viſited the greater part of the "holy places, came to the moſt holy mount "of Calvary. Seeing himſelf in that moſt "precious and holy place, with a moſt fervent "and compaſſionate love, beheld and contem-"plated Chriſt our Redeemer, faſtened and "hanging on the croſs, ſhedding his blood "through the five divine fountains of feet, "hands, and ſide, his whole body wounded, and "his divine head crowned with thorns, and re-"clining in the ſame poſture it was in, when "he ſaid, It is finiſhed: with copious tears "and contrition for his ſins, he greatly be-"moaned himſelf to ſee God and Man dying "for him, and ſaid, My God and my Lord "Jeſus, ſovereign of my ſoul, for what ſhould "I deſire to ſee any thing more in this world? "Lord, I beſeech thee, that ſince thou haſt "done me this favour, and thought me wor-"thy to come to this moſt holy place, where "thou gaveſt thy moſt holy life for me; may "it ſeem good unto thee, that I give mine in "this ſame place, for thee. Then ſaying, "with St. Paul, theſe words, 'To me to live "is Chriſt,' he expired, and his ſoul was car-

" ried to heaven. Happy pilgrim, and bleſ-
" ſed ſoul !"

SOME years ago, a book, intituled, The Hiſtory of the People of God, was tranſlated into Spaniſh from the French or Italian, being ſomething of the nature of our Hiſtories of the Bible, or Joſephus's Antiquities of the Jews. This book was in almoſt every gentleman's houſe in the Canary Iſlands, and was frequently the ſubject of converſation among the clergy and laity; but it has lately been condemned at Rome, and all the copies here were ſeized ſoon after by the Inquiſition.

FEW profane books are read here, becauſe they cannot be imported into the iſlands, without being firſt examined by the Holy Office, a court with which no body chooſes to have any tranſactions; yet here and there one meets with ſome of thoſe excellent books, which were wrote by authors who flouriſhed in Spain, after the civil wars in that kingdom ceaſed on the conqueſt of Granada, and before the Inquiſition arrived at its higheſt pitch of authority; for when that tribunal was firmly eſtabliſhed, learning withdrew from Spain and ſettled in other countries. The Hiſtory of the Wars in Granada is in every body's hands here, and is read by all ranks of people. Plays are not wanting in theſe iſlands, moſt of which are very good; for the Spaniards have ſucceeded better in dramatic performances, than any other Europeans. Among many other authors of that kind, theſe are the moſt celebrated, Juan de Matos Fragoſo, Joſeph Canizarez, Auguſtin de Salazar, Luis Velez de Guevara, Antonio Solis, Auguſtin Mereto, Pedro Calderon,

deron, and Lopez de Vega Carpio: but of all theſe Don Pedro Calderon is moſt eſteemed by the Spaniards; and not without reaſon, for his plays are inferior to none that have yet appeared on any ſtage in Europe. Lopez de Vega Carpio has been by many juſtly compared to our Shakeſpear: it was from one of his plays, called Los Benavides, that the famous Cid of Corneille was planned; this will evidently appear, when theſe performances are compared together, and it will be hard to determine which of the two is the moſt excellent.

Lopez de Vega's dramatic writings are extremely ſcarce, and difficult to be got even in Spain: for this reaſon, and becauſe the Engliſh reader's curioſity may be excited by hearing him compared to Shakeſpear, I ſhall here give a ſpecimen of his dramatic performances, out of one of them called El Mayorazgo Dudoſo. Liſardo, Prince of Scotland, having ſeen a portrait of the Princeſs of Dalmatia, determines to ſee her; and for that purpoſe travels to that country in diſguiſe: he finds means to be employed as a gardener in the King of Dalmatia's garden, where he became intimate with the Princeſs: the reſult of this was that ſhe bore a ſon, which was commited to the charge of a gentleman named Albano. The King hearing of his daughter's diſhonour, is greatly enraged, confines her in a nunnery, and Liſardo in a priſon, where he intends to keep him for life; and cauſes diligent ſearch to be made after the child, in order to deſtroy it. Albano, in endeavouring to ſave the child, is taken with it in his arms by a

party of Moors, who were making a descent on the coast: they carry their captives to Barbary, where Luzman, the child, is educated in the Mahommedan faith, and becomes a great man in that country. Albano, who continued a slave from the day of his captivity, finds means to acquaint Luzman with the circumstances of his birth, and exhorts him to return to Dalmatia, and become a Christian: he complies; and, under pretence of making a descent on the coast of Dalmatia, to distress the Christians, he and Albano give the Moors the slip, and repair to court; where Luzman, without discovering himself, procured leave from the King to visit Lisardo, his father, who had been confined twenty years in prison. It was necessary to relate this much, in order that the reader may comprehend the following scene.

Sala

Sale Lisardo, con barba, y prisones.

Lisardo. En competencia el Tibre, el Ebreo, el Tajo,
Venço en llorar, y ami favor conuenço,
Quando a pensar en mi prision comiençø,
Imitando de Sisifo el trabajo.
Al mismo infierno imaginando baxo,
La historia de que tanto me averguenço,
Tanto que en llanto a Filomena venço.
Y en soledad la tortola aventajo.
Veynte vezes el sol de lirios de oro
Al argentado pez bordo la escama
Desde que vi del mundo los enganos.
Y otros tantos ha que en prision lloro
La vida ques la puerta de la fama,
Cansado de viuir tan largos anos.

Albano, y Luzman dentro.

Albano. Ya han abierto el aposento.
Luzman. Albano aguardame aqui.
Lis. Que ruydo es este? ay de mi,
Que sospechas pensamiento?
Puerta que jamas se abrio
Se abre agora, Dios me valga,
Si es para que el alma salga.
Que albricias le dare yo?
Alegraos cansada vida,
Sufrimiento humilde y baxo,
Que ya se acaba el trabajo,
Y os da la muerte acogina.

Como

Enter Liſardo, with a long beard, and in habit of a priſoner.

Liſ. The rapid Tyber may forget to run,
The ſtreams of Ebro and the Tagus fail,
But not my ever-ſwelling tide of grief.
Not Siſyphus, with his recoiling ſtone,
Can equal my fatigue, when thought on thought,
Preſs'd onward by my hard captivity,
Spends uſeleſs force like waves againſt the ſtrand.
The rueful ſtory, that involves my ſoul
In ſuch a gulph of ſhame, like hell appears.
The turtle's ſolitude is not like mine;
My mourning's ſadder far than Philomel's.
The ſun with golden lilies, twenty times
The zodiac-fiſh's ſilver ſcales has crown'd,
Since I laſt ſaw the world's deceit and vanity.
But oft'ner far have I in priſon mourn'd
That life, which is the gate of fame, with-held;
Wearied in drawing out ſo many uſeleſs years.

Albano and Luzman without.

Alb. See, now they ope the door!
Luz. Stay for me here, Albano.
Liſ. What noiſe is this? ah! what ſuſpicious thought?
The door that never open'd, opens now!
Aſſiſt me, gracious heav'n!—That op'ning door!
Speaks it th'approaching egreſs of the ſoul?
Oh what reward then ſhall I give? Rejoice,
O wearied life, with ſuff'ring long abas'd,
That now the toil is ended. See! at laſt,
They deign to grant the long long wiſh'd-for death.

Como labrador deſcanſo,
Y al jornal Rey me embia,
Porque llegò el fin del dia,
Y de la noche el deſcanſo.
Paciencia, ſufrir, ya es hecho
Porque abrirſe aquella puerta
Es tomar medida cierta
De la que han de hazer al pecho.
Abrilda, que ya mis labios
Para el alma ſe abriràn.
Valgame Dios que ſaldràn
De paciencias, y de agravios,
Si teneys por coſa cierta
Que tan grandes los ſufri,
Tiranos matadme aqui,
Que no cabran por la puerta.
Sacad el cuerpo afligido,
Flaco, encanecido, elado,
Deſte Ioſef empozado
Veyntes anos a ſer vendido.

Sale Luzman.

Luz. Principe guardete el cielo,
Que miras embeleſado?
Lif. El abito me ha eſpantado.
Y el verte me da conſuelo.
Anda ya la gente aſſi?
Que ha veynte anos que aqui entrè
Y puede ſer que aſſi eſte,
Porque nunca a nadie vi.
Si el tiempo mudable ha ſido,

Atribuyaſſe

As to the weary lab'rer ſoothing reſt,
And as the ſweet-earn'd hire, the King beſtows
This gracious boon: for now the day is gone,
The welcome time of night's repoſe is come.
—Patience! To ſuffer now is certain*—That door,
Long ſhut, is op'ning for concerting meaſures
For the laſt office on my panting breaſt.
And let it open—that my eager lips
May alſo open for my quiv'ring ſoul
A paſſage. Help me, heav'n! How many griefs
And tamely ſuffer'd wrongs will now get vent!
My wrongs how many, could you underſtand,
Tyrants, you'd kill me here.—The door's too narrow
To let them out.—But haſte you, come, draw forth
Th'afflicted body, lean, grey-hair'd, and frozen,
Of this endungeon'd Joſeph, ſold for twenty years.

Enter Luzman, habited as a Moor.

Luz. Heav'n guard you, Prince! Why look you ſo ſurpriz'd?
Lif. The habit has ſurpriz'd me; but the ſight
Of you gives joy.—Is that the faſhion now?
It may be ſo. For, ſince within theſe walls
I enter'd, ſince a human face I've ſeen
Full twenty years have paſs'd. Has time produc'd

* Or thus: —Patience to ſuffer! Now 'tis done—
That door,

This

Atribuyaſſe a ſu nombre,
Que yo tambien era hombre,
Y en piedra me he convertido.
Aunque no lo ſoy contigo,
Pues hablo contigo y lloro.

Luz. Y tu no ves que ſoy Moro?
Liſ. Por eſſo lo digo amigo,
Y pues verdades no callo,
Aunque de Chriſtiana ley,
En tierra que es Moro el Rey,
Tambien lo ſera el vaſſallo.
Luz. El que es por ſus obras ruyn
Moro Principe ſerà.
Liſ. Principe me llamas ya,
Mas juſto es llamar me ſin.
Dios ſabe que lo deſſeo.
Lloras, luego deſſa ſuerte
La ſentencia de mi muerte
Cierta en tus ojos la veo.
Pero dime, como a un Moro
Le entregran la execucion?
Luz. Oye haſta el fin mi razon,
Y entenderas porque lloro.
Yo ſoy un Moro de Oran
Dueno de un Chriſtiano eſclavo,
Que nacio en eſta ciudad,
El qual fue ſu nombre Albano.
Cautivole el padre mio,
Con un infante en los braços
Que ſegun del viejo ſupe,
Era tu hijo Liſardo.
El qual vive en el ſervicio,
Del Turco Zayde Otomano,
Tan privado, que le ha hecho
Rey de Oran, ſin otros cargos.

No.

This change? It might.--All things are
chang'd by time.
I too was once a man, but length of time
Has chang'd me into ſtone, tho' not to you
Who hear me ſpeak, and ſee me melting into
tears.
Luz. Seeſt thou not I'm a Moor?
Lif. Friend, that I have in view;
And, as I ſcorn to hide the truth—I deem
That vaſſals, ev'n within a Chriſtian land,
Will to their Prince conform, when he's a
Moor.
Luz. The man abandon'd for his evil deeds,
O prince, ſhall be a Moor.
Lif. Prince call'ſt thou me?
A victim, rather ſay, as good as dead:
Heav'n knows I long to be ſo.—Ha! doſt thou
weep?
—Bewaileſt ſo the ſentence of my death?
I ſee't for certain in your eyes.—But ſay,
Why of my execution was the charge
Given to a Moor?
Luz. Pray hear my tale complete:
Then of my tears the ſecret ſource you'll trace.
—Of Oran I'm a Moor; to me belongs
A Chriſtian ſlave, known by the name Albano:
Him captive, with an infant in his arms,
My father took. That child (ſo ſaid th' old
man),
Liſardo, was thy ſon; and now he owns
The mighty Turk Zayde Othman for his lord:
Who, bearing him the moſt entire affection,
Has rais'd to many honours, and has made
Him King of Oran.—But th' illuſtrious youth
Was

No sabia el moço iluſtre
Su origen famoſo, y claro,
Haſta que pudo aquel viejo
Hablarle, y dezirle el caſo.
Viendoſe Rey, y tu hijo,
Quiſo bolverſe Chriſtiano,
Y ſacarte de priſion,
Vengando tu injuſto agravio.
Para que ſepas que viene,
Me nombro con otros quatro.
Y porque eſperes ſu ayuda,
Que ſu flota queda armando.
En que preſto las orillas
Del ſeno y mar Africano
Coronara de galeras,
Municiones y ſoldados. [*Llora.*
Que ſus vanderas azules.
Vi yo quedar tremolando.
Con tu imagen en priſiones,
Y un ſol eſparziendo rayos.
En Aravigo una letra,
Cerca las orlas y cabos,
Diziendo, " Tarde amanece
Pero dara luz temprano."
Porque el Rey dieſſe licencia
Para verte apriſionado,
Un gran preſente le embia
Carta, y pazes, todo falſo.
Truximos le diez camellos,
Con cien alfombras cargados,
Quatro elefantes famoſos,
Con quatro negros Indianos,
Muchas aromas, y olores,
Diez Berberiſcos cavallos,
Atados a los arçones,
Carcaxes, flechas, y arcos.

Movido

Was to his origin, renown'd and high,
A ſtranger, till th' old man found means to
give him
Of's birth and early years the full detail.
—Now King of Oran, and thy ſon confeſs'd,
He long'd to be a Chriſtian, long'd to free
His ſire from priſon, and avenge his wrongs.
To give you early news of his approach,
He me with four commiſſion'd: nay,
To make you doubtleſs of his ſudden aid,
We left his fleet equipping. Be aſſur'd,
The azure waves that waſh wide Afric's coaſt
Shall with his gallies, men, and warlike
ſtores [*He weeps.*
Be quickly crown'd. I ſaw his enſigns blue
High waving in the wind; upon them ſtamp'd
Thy image, as in priſon, and a ſun
Diffuſing glorious rays; the motto ran
In Arabic, "Late dawning, but will ſoon
give light."
That leave to ſee thee here, we might obtain
A princely gift, with letters of feign'd peace,
Now to the King thy ſon hath ſent with us.
Ten camels have we brought, of tapeſtry
An hundred loads, four elephants renown'd,
Four Indian Blacks, of ſpiceries and perfumes
A wealthy ſtore, of Barb'ry horſes ten,
With quivers, bows, and arrows well equipp'd.

Mov'd

Movido del gran preſente
Licencia de verte ha dado,
Yo porque ſupe la lengua
Tomè entre todos la mano.
Lloro de verte afligido
Con priſion de tantos anos,
Por lo que a Luzman le devo,
Y por tu valor Chriſtiano.
Eſpera en Dios que el te libre
Porque de ſu ingenio, y braço
Ya lleva la fama nuevas
Deſde el Oriente al Ocaſo.

Lif. Que eſto pudo merecer
Mi paciencia, y ſufrimiento,
Llorad ojos que no ſiento
Que queda en vos mi plazer.
No ſe quede mi alegria,
Sin falir ojos por vos
Mas no podra que ſoys dos,
Y por cien mil no podria.
Hijo tengo tan honrado
Que quiera librarme aſſi,
Oy hijo yo ſoy por ti,
Que no tu de mi engendrado.
O Albano que cuydadoſo
Quieres heredero darme,
Mas como podra heredarme
Mayorazgo tan dudoſo?
Si es mi hijo?
Luz. No ha de ſer,
Si en todo ſenor te imita,
Y tray en ſu cara eſcrita
Tu imagen, y proceder?
Que ſenas mas ciertas ſon
Que en hablandote eſſe Albano,

Quiere

Mov'd with this preſent, he hath giv'n us leave
To pay you here this viſit; and becauſe
Among us only I the language knew,
I took the lead. But, ah! the ſight of thee,
With many years' confinement ſore oppreſs'd,
Hath in my heart produc'd the grief you've ſeen.
This heart—by all the ties of duty bound
To Luzman,—to thee alſo, by th' eſteem
I bear thy worth, O Chriſtian!—Truſt in God;
Thy ſon will yet deliver thee: his fame
For pow'r and wiſdom now is ſpreading faſt
From eaſt to weſt.

Lif. Amazing! who'd have thought
My patience e'er could merit ſuch a boon!—
Weep now, mine eyes, and ſend forth ſtreams of joy,
No more of grief.—My joy now only lives,
While ſtreaming freely thro' your two canals:
—But what are two, where thouſands can't ſuffice?
And have I then ſo honourable a ſon,
Who thus would ſave me?—O my ſon! to-day
I am of thee, not thou of me, begotten!
—How careful, O Albano! haſt thou been
To bleſs me with an heir!—But tell me how
An heir ſo doubtful can be my ſucceſſor,
If yet he be my ſon?

Luz. Sir, muſt he not,
If, written in his face, thy mien and features
He bears; nay, if, in all things, he's thy likneſs?
What ſurer ſigns than—what I now aſſert
That this Albano haſtes, in ſolemn form me

T' ame

Quiere bolverſe Chriſtiano,
Y ſacarte de priſion?

Liſ. Bien dizes, mi hijo es,
Que el alma lo dize aſſi,
Agora me libre a mi,
Y engendrarele deſpues.
Come dizes que ſe llama?
Luz. Luzman.
Liſ. Dies le de ſu luz,
Conoce a Dios?

Luz. Con ſu cruz
Tiernas lagrimas derrama.
Ya eſta dieſtro en vueſtra ley.
Liſ. Que talle tiene?
Luz. Eſto mio.
Liſ. No tienes Moro mal brio.

Luz. Que te imito dize el Rey.
Liſ. Agora?
Luz. No quando moço,
Ves eſte cuerpo, eſta cara,
Pues por retrato baſtara.
Liſ. En verte me alegro, y gozo.
Honrada preſencia tienes,
Eres noble?
Luz. Como aquel
De quien ſoy hijo, ſi del
A tener noticia vienes.
Liſ. No ſe que he mirado en ti,
Y aſſi una prueva hare yo,

De

T' aſſume the Chriſtian name, and from your dungeon
To ſet you free.
Liſ. — I've done.—You reaſon well;
He is my ſon—ſo ſays my very ſoul.
Set me but free now—ſoon I'll make him out
My ſon *. Pray, by what name's he known?

Luz. Luzman's his name.
Liſ. God grant him light †, and verify his name.
—But knows he God?
Luz. Now on his Croſs intent,
He ſheds the tender tear; yea, in your law
He's now expert.
Liſ. But ſay, what like's his perſon?
Luz. His perſon is like mine.
Liſ. Moor, thou haſt not
A bad preſence.
Luz. Like thine, the King avers.
Liſ. Like mine at preſent?
Luz. Nay, when thou waſt young.
—This countenance, this perſon you behold,
For th' out-lines of a portrait may ſuffice.
Liſ. Beholding you, I feel uncommon joy.—
Your preſence is endearing—are you noble?

Luz. Noble, you'll own, as he whoſe ſon I am,
If once you knew him.
Liſ. I've beheld in thee
Somewhat I can't deſcribe—but now I'll have it

* The ſenſe here is ſomewhat dubious.
† Luz, in Spaniſh, ſignifies Light.

Put

De que viendo al que le hirio,
Rebienta la ſangre alli.
Arrimarete a mi pecho,
A ver la ſangre que haze,
Abraçame.

Luz. Que me plaze.
Liſ. Ay hijo, la prueva has hecho.
Luz. Que dizes?
Liſ. Que en abraçarte
Sintieron la alteracion
La ſangre, y el coraçon,
Recogidos a una parte.
Perdona que ſer podria,
Que huvieſſe hecho eſte efeto
Su imaginado conceto,
En el alma y fantaſia.
Si era el coraçon yman,
Ve el alma, o qual mas quiſieres,
Como a ti ſino lo eres,
Como a ſu centro ſe van?
Quando una llave ſe pierde,
Que aſſi lo pienſo dezir,
No ay llave que para abrir
Con la perdida concuerde.
Y pues la tuya me dio
Golpe al alma tan ſuave,
Sin duda que eres la llave,
Que un tiempo el alma perdio.
De lo que niegas me quexo,
Que el no aver eſpejo aqui,
Y veo mi eſpejo en ti,
Es ſenal que eres mi eſpejo,
Quando el retrato pequeno
A ſu original parece,
Es quando alegria ofrece

Put to the proof. My sympathetic part,
When touch'd, will cause the kindred blood to rush.
I'll press you to my heart, and then observe
What course the blood will take. Embrace me now.

Luz. Your will be done. [*They embrace.*

Lif. Ha! you've prov'd it, son.

Luz. What have I prov'd?

Lif. That, in embracing thee,
The heart and blood the kindred bias took,
And forward fondly rush'd.—Yet ah! forgive me;
Perhaps some vain conceit, by fancy's pow'r
Moving the soul, might this effect produce.
—Yet if the heart with justice may be nam'd
The loadstone of the soul and its affections,
The proof's still fair: for how else should my soul
Straight to thy heart, as to its center, run?
If the true key be lost (indulge the thought)
In vain you seek to open with another.
Since on my soul your heart made such impression,
You doubtless are the key that's long been lost.
This you deny, and that makes me complain:
For here no polish'd mirror I possess,
My image to reflect, 'Tis then a sign
That thou art my reflector, when I see
Myself in thee. The likeness then is good,
When to the owner's eyes it gives delight.
Since, in this dark abyss of pain and woe,
Thou'st bright'ned so mine eyes, what surer proof
That thou art clearly my reflected self?
Hadst thou not got thy blood from me, it ne'er Had

A los ojos de ſo dueno.
Y pues en aquel abiſmo
De eſcuridad, pena, y llanto,
Los mios ſe alegran tanto
Es ſenal que eres yo miſmo.
Si eſſa ſangre no te diera,
No me lo dixera aqui
Otra que yo te verti,
Como a ſu centro y esfera.
Y a reſolverme al fin vengo,
Pueſto que negarlo quieres,
Que ſi mi hijo no eres
No es poſſible que lo tengo.
Luz. Mucho ſenor te ha movido
Eſſe hijo imaginado,
De quien yo he ſido traſlado,
Si el original no he ſido.
Y aunque no ſe ſi eres padre,
Por ſer tu padre dudoſo
De aquel hijo venturoſo
De tan deſdichada madre.
El eſta aqui con Albano,
Y el Rey ſin ſaber quien es,
Ni que trae mas interes,
Que ſolo hazerſe Chriſtiano,
Hijo le llama, y le ſienta
A ſu meſa, y a ſu lado,
Y de ſu imperio y eſtado
Hazerle heredero intenta.
Albano es governador
Del Reyno, aunque el Rey no ſabe
Quien es.
Lif. En Albano cabe
Mayor grandeza y honor.
Mas di amigo, que el Rey quiere

Sin

Had told me ſo—yea that from me thou didſt
Proceed, as from thy center and thy ſphere.
I'm now at laſt reſolv'd—If to deny
Yourſelf to be my ſon you ſtill perſiſt,
'Tis plain I have no ſon—impoſſible I ſhould.

Luz. With this imaginary ſon, whoſe place
I'm thought to fill, you've got no ſmall concern.
—Tho' I'm not certain if you are the father,
Becauſe you doubt—yet, if I'm not th' original
Of that bleſt ſon of an unhappy mother,
He's here then with Albano: and the King,
Not knowing who he is, or that he comes
With other purpoſe than to turn a Chriſtian,
Calls him his ſon, and honours him as ſuch
At his own table, next himſelf to ſit.
He likewiſe of his crown and wide domain
Hath deſtin'd him the heir. Albano too,
Altho' the King yet knows not who he is,
O'er all his kingdom Governor is made.

Lif. Increaſe of pow'r and grandeur ever may
Albano find!—But ſay, friend, will the King,
Not

Sin ver que ſu nieto ſea,
Hazer que el Reyno poſſea?
Luz. Y que haro quando lo hiziere?

Lif. Mucho, no ſabiendo el cuento,
Coſas ſon que ordena Dios.
Luz. Muy preſto os vereys los dos
Con mucho guſto, y contento.
Y porque paſſa la hora,
Dad licencia, y otro dia
Tenerla ſenor querria
Para veros como agora.
Que dire a Luzman?
Lif. Amigo,
Dile que ſu padre ſoy,
Y eſtas lagrimas te doy
Que le lleves por teſtigo.
Dile que averle engendrado
Me cueſta aqueſta priſion,
Que pague eſta obligacion,
Pues es de plazo paſſado,
Y aqueſte abraço le da.
Luz. Padre mio ya rebiento,
Yrme es poſſible? que intento
Sin que me conozcas ya?
Dame eſſos pies, pues es llano
Padre que mis yerros ſon,
Merezca tu benedicion,
Pues me engendraſte Chriſtiano.
Las lagrimas abraſadas
Deten que darme querias,
Y recibe aqueſtas mias
Deſſa tu ſangre engendradas,
Un rio pueden formar
Las que a tus plantas embio,
Y ſin duda que ſoy rio
Que ha nacidio, y buelvo al mar.

Que

Not knowing Luzman for his grand-ſon, grant
Him to poſſeſs the kingdom?
Luz. Tho' he ſhould,
What great thing would he do?
Lif. Oft times, indeed,
Men, undeſigning, heav'n's deſigns fulfil!
Luz. Soon ſhall you ſee them both to full content.——
But now the time is gone——Pray, give me leave——
Another day I quickly ſhall procure
Another licence to repeat my viſit——
What ſhall I ſay to Luzman?
Lif. Tell him, friend,
I am his father—and theſe tears I give you—
That you may bear them to him as a token.—
Tell him—to've been his father, coſt me this diſtreſs!
Yet ſay, his filial debt's repaid: for now
His term of ſonſhip's paſt.—Take alſo this embrace
And bear——
Luz. My father! now I'm overwhelm'd!
—To go, impoſſible! What ſhall I think—
But that you know me now?——Claſp me between
Theſe knees, ſurely they are my native chains.
Behold, O Chriſtian! thy own ſon implores
A father's bleſſing—Theſe burning tears
Reſtrain, I pray—and rather mine receive.
My tears, engender'd from your blood, I'll pour
Upon thy feet, until they form a river.——
Yea doubtleſs I'm the river once rais'd from,
And now returning to its native ſea.
Ah! that ſuch diſmal twenty years you've ſpent!

Que veynte anos has vivido
En la prision que has passado ?
No respondes padre amado ?
No hablas padre querido ?
Fuera mas justa razon,
Que yo en naciendo muriera,
Pues si mas tiempo viviera
Mas durata tu prision ?
Padre no puedes hablar ?
Sin duda el alma que viene
Con la boz, la boz detiene
Por salir y por entrar.
Padre que leon ha sido
En engendrarme, no ve
Que no resucitare
Si me niega su bramido ?
El ha perdido el hablar,
Porque el gusto de un plazer
Mayor dano puede hazer
Que la fuerça de un pesar.
Quiero llevarle a su cama,
Para ver si buelve en si,
Mi padre arrimate a mi,
Arbol conoce tu rama.
Padre aunque has sido Teseo
Del laberinto en que estoy,
Eneas piadoso soy
Sacarte en ombros desseo.

Father belov'd! reply'ſt thou not to me?
No words at all, dear ſire? Oh had I rather
Dy'd at my birth, than you had ſuffer'd thus!
Father, is thy voice gone? Doubtleſs the ſoul
That enters with the voice, arreſts its pow'rs.
O ſire! the noble lion who begat me,
Seeſt thou not me too impotent to riſe,
Till I be rouz'd by thy parental voice?
Ah! ſpeechleſs ſtill!—The ſhock of ſudden joy
Is oft more pow'rful to o'erwhelm the ſoul,
Than ev'n a load of grief.—him to his bed
I'll bear—perhaps his ſpirit will revive—
My father, cling to me——know, honour'd tree,
'Tis thy own branch ſupports thee.——O my father!
Thou of the lab'rinth wherein I'm involv'd,
Haſt been the Theſeus, yet I'm proud to be
Pious Æneas, to bear you on my ſhoulders.

CHAP. XVII.

An Account of the Commerce of Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, and Hierro; and the Manufactures in these Islands.

IN order to give a distinct and clear idea of the trade of these islands, I shall divide it into the four following heads, and treat of each separately and in order.

THE trade to Europe and the English colonies in America.

THE trade to the Spanish West Indies.

THE trade which is carried on from one island to another.

AND, lastly, The fishery on the coast of Barbary, adjacent to the islands.

GOMERA and Hierro are so poor that no ships go to them from Europe or America; nor are the inhabitants of these two islands allowed any share of the Spanish West India commerce, because they are not so entirely under the jurisdiction of the crown of Spain as Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma, having a lord or proprietor of their own, viz. the Count of Gomera. But it would be well for them if they were entirely subject to, and dependent on the crown; for never did the proverb, which says, "The King's chaff is better than other "people's corn," hold so true in any case as in this.

TENE-

TENERIFE is the center of the trade to Europe and the Britiſh colonies in America; a few ſhips from theſe parts of the world go to Canaria and Palma, but they are not to be compared to the numbers that arrive at Tenerife. This branch of traffick is almoſt wholly carried on in foreign bottoms, eſpecially in Engliſh, the natives themſelves being afraid to ſail on thoſe ſeas, where they may be in danger of being taken by the corſairs of Algiers, Sallee, and other ports of Barbary.

THE greateſt part of the aforeſaid trade to Europe and the Engliſh colonies is in the hands of the Iriſh Roman Catholic merchants ſettled in Tenerife, Canaria, and Palma, and the deſcendants of the Iriſh who formerly ſettled there and married Spaniſh wives; but in the laſt age that trade was engroſſed by a factory of Proteſtant Engliſh merchants who reſided at Tenerife: no Proteſtants remain there now, nor in any of the reſt of the Canary Iſlands, excepting the Engliſh and Dutch Conſuls and two merchants, who all reſide at Tenerife.

THE imports here from Great Britain conſiſt chiefly of woollen goods of various kinds, hats, hard-ware, pilchards, red-herrings, wheat when it is ſcarce in the iſlands, with a number of other articles which would be too tedious to ſpecify.

THE imports from Ireland are chiefly beef, pork, butter, candles, and ſalt-herrings.

FROM Hamburgh and Holland, linens of all ſorts are imported, to a very great amount; cordage, gun-powder, and coarſe flax, with many other kinds of goods.

FROM Biſcay, a conſiderable quantity of bar-iron is annually imported.

THE imports from Seville, Cadiz, Barcelona, Italy, and Majorca are chiefly oil, ſilks, velvets, ſalt, and cordage made of baſs or ſpartum, with innumerable little articles for the Canary inland conſumption, and for exportation from theſe iſlands to the Spaniſh Weſt Indies. Almoſt the whole of this trade is carried on in French and Malteſe tartans. The Malteſe veſſels, before they go to the Canary Iſlands, make the tour of all the European harbours in the Mediterranean ſituated to the weſtward of Malta, trading from one port to another; and from the Mediterranean they go to Cadiz, and from thence to the Canary Iſlands; where beſides the commodities of Spain, France, Italy, &c. the Malteſe vend the cotton manufactures of their own iſland; all cottons imported into the Canary Iſlands, excepting thoſe from Malta, pay ſuch a heavy duty as almoſt amounts to a prohibition: the Malteſe enjoy this privilege on account of their maintaining a perpetual war againſt the Turks and moors.

THE inhabitants of the Canaries import a few linens from Britany and Normandy.

FROM the Britiſh colonies in America they import deal boards, pipe-ſtaves, baccallao or dried cod, and beef, pork, hams, bees wax, rice, &c. and in times of ſcarcity of corn, when the crops fail in the iſlands, maize, wheat, and flour.

THE exports from theſe iſlands are as follow:

To

To Great Britain and Ireland, orchilla-weed, a few wines, ſome Campeachy log-wood, and a conſiderable quantity of Mexican dollars.

To Hamburgh and Holland, ditto; but a greater quantity of dollars, and little or no orchilla-weed.

To Spain, Marſeilles, Italy, and Malta, commodities which they receive from the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, particularly ſugar, cocoa, hides, Campeachy logwood, dollars, and ſome orchilla-weed.

To the Britiſh colonies in America, a great quantity of wines, and nothing elſe.

All theſe goods imported into the Canary Iſlands, or exported from them, pay a duty of ſeven per cent. on the rated value.

The commerce between the Canary Iſlands and the Spaniſh ſettlements in the Weſt Indies, is under certain regulations and reſtrictions. In the city of St. Chriſtobal de la Laguna, there is a Judge, Secretary and other miniſters, who manage every thing relative to that trade.

No foreigners are permitted to ſhare in this commerce, nor are any ſhips ſuffered to go to the ports of the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, from any of the iſlands, except Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma.

The Court of Spain has reſtricted the Canary Iſland Weſt India commerce to the ports of Havanna, Campeachy, and La Guaira on the coaſt of Carraccas; St. Domingo, Porto Rico, and Maracaiva; the three firſt are called the Greater Ports, and the others the Leſſer, becauſe the trade of the Leſſer Ports is

trifling in comparison with that of the Greater.

BEFORE a ship loads for any of these ports, she must obtain a licence from the Judge of the India trade, which is generally granted, if it is her turn, for by the regulations, all shipping are registered, and must take their turns; but here, as in many other places, interest and money often prevail against justice.

THE trade of the Canary Islands to the Spanish West Indies is confined to their own produce, viz. wines, brandy, almonds, raisins, figs, &c. of which they can send annually one thousand tons; and are only allowed besides, what they call a General, for each ship, which consists of every kind of goods which is thought necessary for the vessel, crew, and passengers use during the course of the voyage, and is more or less extensive in proportion to the size of the ship, for which it is granted by the Judge or Superintendant of the West India trade. Thus far they are restricted by the rules; but ways and means are found to extend their trade to that quarter of the world far beyond them; for I suppose they export at least two thousand tons of the produce of the islands, besides immense quantities of European commodities.

ALTHOUGH some of the Canary West India ships load at Canaria and Palma, and proceed from thence to the West Indies, yet they are all obliged to finish their voyages at Santa Cruz in Tenerife (where the officers deputed by the Judge of the Indies reside), and there land their cargoes, which consist of the commodities of the West India ports from whence they

they come, being chiefly cocoa, logwood, hides, sugar, and Mexican dollars; but cochineal and indigo are prohibited from being landed at Tenerife; the silver they bring, is also limited to fifty Mexican dollars per ton, according to the registered tonnage; yet I have known some of these ships bring home to Tenerife one hundred thousand dollars. Formerly wine, brandy, and fruit only were reckoned the produce of these islands; but now the manufactures of them go to the Spanish West Indies under that denomination.

THE exports from the Canaries to these countries, with the returns, are all rated, and pay certain duties, which the officers of the West India commerce collect, and remit to those of the India House in Spain.

THE merchants of Cadiz are very jealous of the Canary West India trade, and are continually making application to the Court of Madrid to abridge it; but their attempts have hitherto proved abortive; although they have caused Intendants to be sent over to Tenerife to inspect into that commerce, and oblige the islanders to keep within the limits prescribed to it by the court.

NUMBERS of the islanders go over to the West Indies, to push their fortunes, the greater part of whom marry and settle there. The King of Spain encourages this migration, for he obliges every ship which sails from these islands to his American dominions, to carry a certain number of poor families, upon their demanding a passage, for which the Captain is paid so much per head by the government. The intention of this encouragement is to in-

creaſe the number of Spaniards in the wide and almoſt uninhabited provinces of the Spaniſh Weſt Indies.

THE Indians of that country, with the mingled race begot between them and the Spaniards, are never permitted to fill any office, civil, military, or eccleſiaſtic; theſe employments are generally given to people from Spain and the Canary Iſlands. As many of them, when they arrive in that plentiful country, are mere clowns, and are unaccuſtomed to live in affluence and without hard labour, they are ſoon puffed up with their ſudden change of fortune, and the great reſpect paid them by the natives.

I AM told that ſome waggiſh Indians of ſome repute and conſequence in America, when they ſee theſe aukward clowns from the Canaries land in their country, call to them in the ſame manner as they call their fowls, when they are going to give them a handful of corn, and ſay, "To-day you are only Juan ſuch-a-"one; but take courage, to-morrow you "ſhall be Alcalde, and ſtiled Seignior Don "Juan; for the King lives not for us, but for "you." The Indians are ſeldom out in their prophecy, for it generally happens accordingly. Many young married men go to thoſe ports from the iſlands, with an intention to get a little money, and return to their families; but they ſeldom find the way back again, for after they have contracted acquaintance with the gallant ladies of that country, who ſwim in luxury and pomp, they are aſhamed to ſend to the Canaries for their home-bred ruſtic wives. Some years ago a young lad went from

Tenerife

Tenerife to the Weſt Indies, in queſt of his father, who had gone to that country to mend his fortune, but had never ſent any word to his wife and family. He found him ſettled at a certain place, in great affluence, and married to a lady of rank and fortune. He made himſelf known to his father; who, ſeeing him ſuch a ruſtic, called to remembrance his former low ſituation, which ſo wrought on his mind, that he diſowned him, and denied that himſelf had ever lived in Tenerife. The young man was ſo ſtruck with this unexpected treatment, that he publicly challenged him, and made known the whole ſtory, to his father's confuſion, and the aſtoniſhment of all the inhabitants.

MANY ſoldiers are raiſed in the Canary Iſlands, to ſerve in the garriſons of the Weſt Indies, particularly at the Havanna. The major part of the troops in that place, when taken by the Engliſh, conſiſted of the natives of theſe iſlands.

THE ſhips employed in the Canaria Spaniſh Weſt India trade, are commonly about two hundred and fifty, or three hundred tons burthen. Some of them are built in the iſlands, and others at the Havanna or Old Spain. No foreign bottoms can be employed in this trade, which is the reaſon why freight is ſo high from the Canaries to the Weſt Indies; for the Canary ſhipping are ſo clogged with charges, carry ſo many uſeleſs hands, particularly chaplains, lie ſo long in the road of Santa Cruz waiting their turns, at a vaſt expence of anchors and cables, with other tear and wear, that the owners of them cannot afford to take

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leſs freight for a pipe of wine, from the Canaries to La Guaira, than ten pounds ſterling; yet the run from Tenerife to that port, is before the wind all the way, and is generally performed in leſs than thirty days: were the iſlanders permitted to employ Engliſh ſhipping in this trade, they would ſoon find enough of them to carry their wine at the rate of twenty ſhillings per pipe.

THE Canary Weſt Indiamen commonly careen and repair in the ports of the Weſt Indies; but in caſe of ſpringing a leak, or ſuch like accident, while in the road of Santa Cruz, they go to Porto de Naos in Lancerota, and there careen, &c. In the ſummer ſeaſon, I have ſeen ſome go for that purpoſe to the harbour of Gomera.

THE third branch of the Canary Iſland trade, is that which is carried on from one iſland to another, and is as follows:

CANARIA exports to Tenerife proviſions of all ſorts, cattle and fowls, coarſe woollen blankets, ſome raw and wrought ſilk, orchilla-weed, ſquare flags for pavements, filtering ſtone veſſels for purifying water, and ſome ſalt, &c. The returns received for theſe commodities are chiefly caſh and other produce of the Spaniſh Weſt Indies.

PALMA exports to Tenerife ſugar, almonds, ſweetmeats, boards, pitch, raw ſilk, and orchilla; and receives in return Weſt India and European goods.

GOMERA exports to Tenerife much raw ſilk and ſome wrought, brandy, cattle, and orchilla-weed; and receives in return Weſt India and European goods.

HIERRO

HIERRO exports to Tenerife brandy, ſmall cattle, and orchilla-weed.

LANCEROTA and Fuertaventura export a great quantity of corn to Tenerife, orchilla-weed, cattle, and fowls; the returns they receive are generally in European goods and caſh, with ſome wine. The ſame iſlands ſend corn to Palma, for which they receive boards and other timber, ſugar, wine, and caſh. Lancerota alſo exports to Tenerife and Palma, ſalt and ſome dried fiſh.

THE veſſels employed in this trade are all built in the iſlands, and run from twenty to fifty tons; the whole number of them I gueſs to be about twenty-five, each of which, on an average, is navigated by ten hands: the reaſon why they caary ſo many, is the great labour that is required in loading and unloading their cargoes.

ALL American and European goods which are tranſported from iſland to iſland, pay the aforementioned duty of ſeven per cent. if they have been imported into the iſlands above a certain limited time, which, if I am rightly informed, is two months.

THE laſt thing relating to the Canary commerce we have to treat of, is the fiſhery on the coaſt of Barbary.

THE number of veſſels employed in this fiſhery, amount to about thirty; they are from fifteen to fifty tons burthen; the ſmalleſt carry fifteen men, and the largeſt thirty. They are all built in the iſlands, and navigated by the natives. Two of theſe belong to the iſland of Palma, four to Tenerife, and the reſt

to

to Canaria. Porto de Luz, in that iſland, is the place from whence they ſail for the coaſt.

THE method of fitting out a bark for the fiſhery is this: the owners, furniſh a veſſel for the voyage, and put on board her a quantity of ſalt ſufficient to cure the fiſh, with bread enough to ſerve the crew the whole voyage. Each man carries his own fiſhing-tackle, which conſiſts of a few lines, hooks, a little braſs wire, a knife for cutting open the fiſh, and one or two ſtout fiſhing-rods. If any of the crew carry wine, brandy, oil, vinegar, pepper, onions, &c. it muſt be at his own expence, for the owners furniſh no proviſion but bread. The nett ſum ariſing from the ſale of the fiſh, after deducting the expence of the ſalt and bread before-mentioned, is divided into ſhares, a certain number of which are allowed to the owners, for their expence in fitting out the veſſel; the reſt are divided among the crew according to merit: an able fiſherman has one ſhare; a boy, landman, or one not experienced in the fiſhery, half a ſhare, or a quarter, according to his abilities. The patron or maſter of the bark ſhares equally with the able fiſhermen, and the owners allow him alſo one ſhare out of theirs, for his trouble in taking care of the bark.

THE place on the coaſt of Barbary where they go to fiſh, is according to the ſeaſon of the year. This fiſhery is bounded on the north by the ſouthern extremity of Mount Atlas, or by the latitude of twenty-nine degrees north; and on the ſouth by Cape Blanco, in the latitude of twenty degrees thirty minutes north: the whole length of the ſea-coaſt

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ſo bounded, is about ſix hundred miles. In all this extenſive tract there is no town, village, or ſettled habitation; the few wandering Arabs who frequent this part of the world live in tents, and have neither barks, boats, nor canoes: the King of Morocco's cruiſers never venture ſo far to the ſouthward; for were they to attempt ſuch a thing, it is not probable they would be able to find the way back to their own country, ſo that the Canarians have nothing to fear from that quarter. In the ſpring ſeaſon, the fiſhermen go on the coaſt to the northward, but in the autumn and winter to the ſouthward; becauſe in the ſpring the fiſh frequent the coaſt to the northward, and afterwards go gradually along the ſhore to the ſouthward.

THE firſt thing the fiſhermen ſet about when they arrive on the coaſt, is to catch bait; this is done in the ſame manner as we do trouts with a fly, only with this difference, that the rod is thrice as thick as ours, and not tapered away ſo much towards the point. The line is made of ſix ſmall braſs wires, twiſted together; the hook is about five inches long, and is not bearded; the ſhaft is leaded ſo as to lie horizontally on the ſurface of the water; and the hook is covered with a fiſh's ſkin, except from where it bends, to the point; then getting within a quarter or half a mile of the ſhore, they carry ſo much ſail as to cauſe the bark to run at the rate of four miles an hour, when two or three men throw their lines over the ſtern, and let the hooks drag along the ſurface of the water: the fiſh, taking the hooks for ſmall fiſh, ſnap at them, and, when hooked, the

the fiſhermen ſwing them into the barks with their rods. The Canarians call theſe fiſh Taſſarte: they have no ſcales, and are ſhaped like mackarel, but as large as ſalmon; they are exceeding voracious, and ſwallow all the hook, notwithſtanding its being ſo large; if it was bearded, there could be no ſuch thing as extracting it without cutting open the fiſh: I have ſeen three men in the ſtern of a bark, catch an hundred and fifty taſſarte in half an hour. It ſometimes happens that a bark will complete her lading with theſe fiſh only. Another ſort of fiſh, which theſe people call Anhoua, is taken in the ſame manner; this is ſomething bigger than a large mackerel, and ſerves as well as the taſſarte for bait. There is another ſort of bait called Cavallos, or little horſe-mackerel, which is ſhaped like a mackerel, but ſomething more flat and broad; it is about a ſpan long, and is catched with an angling-rod and line, with a very ſmall hook, baited with almoſt any thing that comes to hand. When a bark has got a ſufficient ſtock of bait, ſhe leaves her boat, with five or ſix men, near the ſhore, to catch taſſarte and anhoua, and runs out to ſea a good diſtance off, until ſhe gets into fifteen, twenty, thirty, forty, or perhaps fifty or ſixty fathoms depth of water, where ſhe anchors, and all the crew heave their lines and hooks overboard, baited with taſſarte, anhoua, &c. and fiſh for Samas, or bream as we call them, and for Cherney, or cod. The lines are all leaded, in order to cauſe the hooks to ſink near to the bottom of the ſea, where theſe fiſh ſwim. When a bark is ſo fortunate as to meet with fine weather, and

and is well provided with bait, ſhe will be able to complete her cargo in four days. This I have often had opportunity to obſerve. But as the trade or north-eaſt wind commonly blows freſh on that coaſt, the barks only anchor in the offing about mid-day, when there is a lull between the land and ſea-breeze; and when this laſt-mentioned wind begins to blow freſh, they weigh their anchors, ſtand in to ſhore, and come to an anchor in ſome bay, or under a head-land, and then the crew fall to work, clean and ſalt the fiſh which they catched that day: by the time this is done, it is about five or ſix o'clock in the evening, when they go to dinner or ſupper, for they make but one meal the whole day, which they cook in the following manner: in every bark the crew has a long flat-ſtone for a hearth, upon which they kindle a fire, and hang a large kettle over it, in which they boil ſome fiſh; they then take a platter, and put ſome broken biſcuit in it, with onions ſhred ſmall, to this they add ſome pepper and vinegar, and then pour in the broth of the fiſh: no ſort of ſoup or broth is more delicious than this. After having eaten of this excellent ſoup, they finiſh their meal with roaſted fiſh, for they throw the boiled fiſh, of which the ſoup was made, into the ſea. Soon after this repaſt, every man looks about for the moſt commodious place where to fall aſleep, for no bedding are made uſe of in theſe veſſels. About five or ſix in the morning they get up, leave the boat near the ſhore, weigh anchor and ſtand out to ſea as before, and never taſte victuals before the ſame time next evening. No man who knows

knows the toil, fatigue, cold, and heat which theſe fiſhermen undergo, will ever charge the Spaniards with lazineſs.

THE method of curing theſe fiſh is this: they cut them open, clean and waſh them thoroughly, chop off their heads and fins, and pile them up to drain off the water; after which they are ſalted, and ſtowed in bulk in the hold. But becauſe they do not, like the French who fiſh on the banks of Newfoundland, waſh their fiſh a ſecond time and re-ſalt them, they will not keep above ſix weeks or two months.

IT is ſtrange to think that the Spaniards ſhould want to ſhare the Newfoundland fiſhery with the Engliſh, when they have one much better at their own doors; I ſay better, for the weather here, and every thing elſe, concurs to make it the beſt fiſhery in the univerſe. What can be a ſtronger proof of this, than the Moors on the continent drying and curing all their fiſh without ſalt, or by any other proceſs, than expoſing them to the ſun-beams? for the pure wholeſome air of that climate, and the ſtrong northerly wind which almoſt conſtantly prevails on this coaſt, totally prevents putrefaction, provided the fiſh are ſplit open, well waſhed, and expoſed to the ſun until they are perfectly dry.

As theſe veſſels ſeldom go to fiſh on any part of the coaſt of Barbary to the windward of the iſlands, and are obliged to ply againſt the freſh northerly winds, which almoſt continually prevail there, they are conſtructed in ſuch a manner that they hold a good wind, as it is termed in the ſea-language, being very ſharp fore and aft, and full and flat in the middle.

middle. They are rigged brigantines, and carry a large flying fore-top-ſail, but in general no main-top-ſail, nor ſtay-ſails; they all carry large ſprit-ſails, but no jibbs. I have known theſe barks to beat to windward from Cape Blanco to Gran Canaria in twelve days, though the diſtance is above four hundred miles. Their method of plying to windward is this: they weigh about ſix or ſeven o'clock in the morning, and ſtand off to ſea, with the land-wind, until noon, when they put about, and ſtand in ſhore, with the ſea-breeze; when they come cloſe in with it, they either anchor for the night, or make ſhort tacks until day-light, when they ſtand out to ſea till noon, as before. The difference between the land and ſea-breezes on this coaſt is generally four points, and they both blow a freſh top-ſail-gale. When they get ten or fifteen leagues to the windward of Cape Bazador, they ſtand over for the iſland of Gran Canaria: if the wind happens then to be at north-eaſt, they fetch the port of Gando, on the ſouth-eaſt part of that iſland; but if the wind is at north-north-eaſt, they only fetch the calms, into which they puſh, and there ſoon find a ſouth-weſt wind to carry them cloſe to Canaria, from whence the greater part of them go to Santa Cruz and Port Orotava, to diſcharge their cargoes; the reſt go to Palmas, in Canaria, and to Santa Cruz, in the iſland of Palma. They do not ſtop at theſe places to ſell the fiſh, but leave them with their agents, to ſell them at leiſure and to the beſt advantage. The common price is three half-pence per pound, of thirty-two ounces, which is the weight here uſed for fleſh

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and fish; sometimes they are sold for a penny, and never higher than two pence. The Regidores, or Cavildo, in the islands, always regulate the price.

Instead of encouraging this most useful and profitable branch, the magistrates in these islands take every method to hurt it; for they most impolitically fix a price on the fish, and clog the trade with foolish and unreasonable duties, besides forbidding the fishermen to have any dealings or intercourse with the Moors on the coast where they go to fish; which is a very great hardship on them, as they are often obliged, when they meet with bad weather, to go ashore there for fuel and water. However, they privately correspond with them, to their mutual advantage; for the Canarians give to the inhabitants of the Desert old ropes, which the latter untwist and spin into yarn or twine, for making fishing-nets; they also give them bread, onions, potatoes, and fruits of many kinds: in return for which, the Moors allow them to take wood and water on their coast, whenever they are in want of these most necessary articles, and make them presents of ostrich-eggs and feathers. The inland Moors would punish their poor countrymen, who live on fish by the sea-coast, if they knew of their correspondence with the Canarian fishermen: but this does not prevent that intercourse, as necessity obliges these people, so different from one another, to conform to the laws of nature, however contrary to the precepts of both their religions. But this profitable communication has lately been interrupted, as I shall have occasion

caſion to obſerve in the deſcription of that part of Africa.

ALTHOUGH the Canary fiſhermen have frequented this coaſt ever ſince the conqueſt of the iſlands, yet they are entirely ignorant of the inland country, and of the people who dwell there. When I firſt went on that coaſt, I examined the moſt experienced of them concerning an inlet or gulph, named in our maps, and called by the Canary men, Rio del Oro, but could get no ſatisfactory information; ſome told me it ran ſeventy or eighty leagues inland. Being ſurprized that no traveller had given any account of ſuch a noble channel, and imagining that if it was ſo long as they affirmed, ſome trade might be opened in that unknown region, I ſailed, though with difficulty, among the ſands which abound in that gulph, until we got to the further end of the bay, which is no more than ten leagues diſtant from its mouth: we found it to run parallel with the ſea-coaſt, and at no greater diſtance from it than one league: the end of this inlet is within half a mile of the ocean, being parted from it only by a narrow neck of land. I mention this as an inſtance of their ignorance of this country.

THESE barks generally make eight or nine voyages in the ſpace of a year. From the middle of February to the middle of April, they remain at Canary, to careen, repair, &c. becauſe at that ſeaſon of the year, the fiſh are found only to the northward, where the ſhore lies almoſt ſouth-weſt-by-weſt, or weſt-ſouth-weſt, conſequently open and expoſed to the north-weſt winds, which ſometimes blow there

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in February, March, and April, and make that part of the coaſt to be what we call a lee-ſhore.

When I firſt frequented the coaſt of the Deſert, the Canary men went no farther to the ſouthward than Cape Barbas, in latitude twenty-two degrees north; but now they go to Cape Blanco, which lies about thirty leagues beyond it. Although the bulk of their cargoes conſiſts of large bream, yet they catch many other ſorts, viz. taſſarte before-mentioned, a delicious fiſh which taſtes like a very large and fat mackerel, but when dried cannot be diſtinguiſhed from dried ſalmon. The cod caught here is better than thoſe of Newfoundland: the anhoua is exceeding good: the corbino is a large fiſh, weighing about thirty pounds. There are beſides theſe a number of flat fiſh, with many other ſorts, which I cannot deſcribe.

Although this fiſhery is capable of the greateſt improvement, yet the Engliſh have no reaſon to be apprehenſive of the Spaniards ever being able to bring it to any degree of perfection, ſo as to rival them in the Spaniſh and Italian markets: the power of the clergy in Spain, is a better ſecurity to the Engliſh againſt ſuch an event, than if a fleet of one hundred ſail of the line were ſtationed on the coaſt of Barbary, to obſtruct the Spaniſh fiſhery.

The manufactures of theſe iſlands are taffeties, knit ſilk hoſe, ſilk garters, quilts, and bed-covers. In Canaria and Tenerife, coarſe linens and gauſe are made of the flax imported from Holland. White blankets and coarſe cloths

cloths are made in Canaria, from the wool of their own ſheep. A very coarſe kind of cloth, which is worn by the peaſants, is alſo made in the reſt of the iſlands; but on feſtivals, weddings, &c. the labouring people generally wear Engliſh coarſe cloth. The exportation of raw ſilk is now prohibited, in order to encourage their ſilk manufacture. In the large towns, men are employed in weaving and as taylors; but in the villages, the women only exerciſe thoſe trades.

To give ſome idea of the fertility and produce of Tenerife, they annually export no leſs than fifteen thouſand pipes of wine and brandy, and a great quantity is conſumed in the iſland.

THE current coin in the Canaries is the Mexican dollar, and the half, quarter, eighth, and ſixteenth parts of it. Beſides theſe, there is the provincial real of plate, which is a ſmall ſilver piece, of the value of five pence ſterling; and the quart, a copper coin, equal in value to our half-penny, for ten of them make a real of plate. The provincial ſilver coin is not current in Lancerota and Fuertaventura; and is never exported, becauſe it paſſes in the iſlands for more than its intrinſic value. But accounts are kept here in imaginary money, viz. in current dollars of ten reals of vellon each. The real of vellon is equal in value to eight of the above-mentioned quarts, ſo that the current dollar is exactly three ſhillings and four-pence, and ſix of them make juſt one pound ſterling. Three ſixteenths of the Mexican dollar paſs for two rials of plate. Little or no gold coin is to be found in theſe iſlands.

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THE pound and ſmaller weights here are much the ſame with ours. The quintal, which is the iſland hundred weight, does not, like ours, weigh one hundred and twelve pounds, but only one hundred and four. The arroba is twenty-five pounds.

THE meaſures are the fanega or hanega, the almud, the liquid arroba, and the var.

THE firſt of theſe is the meaſure uſed for corn, cocoa, ſalt, &c. and almoſt contains the quantity of two Engliſh buſhels. Twelve almuds make a fanega. The liquid arroba contains ſomething more than three gallons; and the quartillo is nearly equal to our quart. The var is a meaſure for cloth, &c. and is about $\frac{7}{100}$ leſs than the Engliſh yard.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of the Government and Revenues of the Canary Iſlands.

HAVING already given ſome account of the government of Lancerota and Fuertaventura, I need not ſay any thing of that of Gomera and Hierro, becauſe they are governed much in the ſame manner as the above-mentioned iſlands. I ſhall now proceed to thoſe called the King's Iſlands, viz. Canaria, Tenerife, and Palma.

WHEN the natives were reduced to the obedience of the crown of Spain, they were not deprived of their liberty, but put on an equality with their conquerors: an example of policy worthy of imitation. How the Spaniards came, ſoon after, in America, to act in a quite contrary manner, is hard to conceive; yet the Dutch, French, and Engliſh, far from following the good example given by the Spaniards in the Canary Iſlands, have erected, in the ſugar-iſlands in the Weſt Indies, the moſt abſurd and barbarous governments that ever exiſted in any part of the globe, and which are by many degrees worſe than the Spaniſh governments in America.

WHAT improvement or obedience can be expected in a country, where all the labouring people are ſlaves, and have no other principle

to excite them to obedience and induſtry, but the fear of puniſhment? which, after all, has never yet brought their labour to any degree of equality with that of indigent free people, who have the ſole diſpoſal of the fruits of their labour.

Is it not amazing to conſider how the Engliſh, with the moſt conſummate inſolence, rail againſt their Princes and Miniſters of State, as infringing their liberties; while at the ſame time, they themſelves are tyrannizing over their fellow-creatures in the moſt cruel and arbitrary manner. What idea muſt ſober thinking people have of the Engliſh notions of liberty? Can they imagine this liberty any thing more than a power to be inſolent to their ſuperiors with impunity, and to oppreſs the poor with extreme rigour? Their oppreſſion of the poor may be obſerved in other inſtances than in the treatment of their ſlaves in the Weſt Indies, viz. their laws againſt vagabonds, i. e. poor ſtrangers who have no ſettled habitation, and ſtrolling players. Do not theſe very people, who make ſuch a noiſe about liberty, deprive beggars of their natural freedom, by confining them in work-houſes, contrary to their inclinations? yet theſe beggars compel nobody to give them a farthing; and if they uſe violence or fraud to ſupport themſelves, the law has provided puniſhments proportioned to the heinouſneſs of their crimes. Why then cannot they, in a free country, have the liberty to expire in the ſtreet or open fields for want, if they ſhould chooſe to do ſo rather than work?

BUT to return from this digreſſion, which is not altogether foreign to my ſubject. The Spaniards, after the conqueſt of the Canary Iſlands, incorporated with the natives in ſuch a manner as to become one people: the conſequence of this political union is, that the King of Spain can raiſe in theſe iſlands more ſoldiers and ſea-men, who may be depended on, than in any other part of his dominions, three times the extent of the Canary Iſlands. To this advantage another may be added, the great number of people that annually go from hence to ſettle in his wide and uninhabited dominions in America.

THE loweſt officer of juſtice in theſe iſlands, except the Alguazils, is the Alcalde; whoſe office is ſomething like that of a Juſtice of Peace in England: in every town or village of note there is one. Theſe magiſtrates are appointed by the Royal Audience of the city of Palmas in Canaria; they hold not their places for life, but only for a certain time: in matters of property they cannot take cognizance of any diſpute, where the value of the thing conteſted, amounts to above ſeventeen rials, or ſeven ſhillings ſterling. Over theſe magiſtrates is another, called the Alcalde Major, who is appointed in the ſame manner as the officers before-mentioned; he cannot decide a matter of property, when the value conteſted exceeds the ſum of two hundred dollars: from the deciſions of all theſe magiſtrates, appeals lie to the Tiniente and Corregidor. The firſt of theſe magiſtrates is a lawyer, and nominated by the Royal Audience; and the King appoints the latter, who is not obliged to be a

lawyer, but muſt have a Clerk, Secretary, or Aſſiſtant bred to the law, who is called his Aſſeſſor. The Corregidor generally holds his place for five years, but ſometimes longer. Few of the natives of the iſlands are placed in this honourable office, for thoſe that fill it are commonly natives of Spain. The proceedings in the Corregidor's court, and in that of the Tiniente are the ſame; and it would ſeem that theſe courts were originally intended as a check upon one another.

FROM the Corregidor and Tiniente appeals are made to the Royal Audience of Gran Canaria. This tribunal is compoſed of three Oidores or Judges, a Regent and Fiſcal, who are generally natives of Spain, and always appointed by the King; of this court the Governor-general is always Preſident, though he reſides in Tenerife. From their determination, in criminal caſes, there is no appeal; but in matters of property, appeals are carried to the Council or Audience of Seville in Spain:

THE ſtanding forces in the Canary Iſlands, I do not reckon to amount to above one hundred and fifty men; but there is a militia properly regulated and embodied, of which the Governor-general of the iſlands is always commander in chief; the officers, viz. Colonels, Captains, and Subalterns, are all appointed by the King; and in caſe any of them die, the vacancy ought to be filled by ſeniority, but intereſt ſometimes prevails againſt this regulation. The military officers, if they have a diſpute with any other perſon, may cite him before a civil magiſtrate; but this laſt has no power to compel a military officer to appear before

before his tribunal: but if a man should be any way injured by an officer of the militia, he may complain to his superior officer; and if he does not think he has got redress, he may complain to the Governor-general of the islands: from his sentence he may appeal to the Council of War in Spain, which, although it is so named, is in fact a civil court.

The reader may perceive how easy it is for these military officers to oppress the inhabitants; yet when he considers that they have settled habitations, and do not move from place to place like the officers of standing forces, and are married and connected with the inhabitants of the towns where they reside, and where it is their interest to preserve their reputation, he will not wonder there is so little oppression in these islands: yet one must not expect to find such justice in matters of property here, as in England; I say, of property, for no man in this country dares to commit the greater acts of oppression or violence, because the injured party would stab the aggressor, let his rank be ever so great, and fly for refuge to the next church or convent, from whence no power could force him; there he might remain in safety until he could find an opportunity of escaping from the islands.

Besides the above-mentioned military officers, there are Castillanos, i. e. Governors or Captains of forts and castles, some of whom are appointed by the King, and others by the twelve Regidores of the islands, called the Cavildo; for some of the island forts belong to the King, the rest are under the direction of the Regidores. The King's forts

are garriſoned by the hundred and fifty ſtanding forces; and as there are many of theſe forts, the reader may judge what number of men may be in each.

THE Regidores, as I have obſerved before, in the Hiſtory of the Diſcovery and Conqueſt, are hereditary officers, who hold a court to regulate the price of proviſions, to take care that the highways are kept in repair, to prevent public nuiſances, and the plague from being brought into the iſland by ſhipping, &c. To defray the charge of repairing the roads, and other neceſſary works, the Regidores have power to lay a tax on the inhabitants: they have impoſed a ſort of exciſe on ſoap, which, I believe, produces a ſum ſufficient to defray theſe expences.

No man is allowed to land in theſe iſlands from on board any ſhip, until the maſter of her produces a bill of health from the port he was laſt in, or until the crew have been properly examined, whether or not they are free from the plague, or any other infectious diſtemper: before this is done, no boat except the pratique or health-boat, dares to come near her.

WHEN I wanted to go to Tenerife from the coaſt of Africa, where a certificate of health cannot be had, I uſed to touch at Lancerota or Fuertaventura, where I always got a bill of health without the leaſt difficulty, which procured me admittance at Tenerife, Canaria, or Palma.

THE King's revenue in theſe iſlands is divided into the following branches:

I. LAS

I. Las Tercias Reales, or royal third of the tythes.

II. The monopoly of tobacco and ſnuff.

III. The acknowledgment annually paid by the nobility to the King for their titles.

IV. The duty of ſeven per cent. on imports and exports.

V. The duty on the Canary Weſt India commerce.

The firſt of theſe taxes is improperly named the third of the tythes, for it ſcarcely amounts to the tenth part of them: the King finds in this, to his coſt, what it is to be in partnerſhip with the clergy. The tercias reales are a gift made by the Pope to the King of Spain, in conſideration of that Prince's maintaining a perpetual war againſt the Infidels.

The ſecond branch of the revenue conſiſts in ſnuff and tobacco, which the Stankeros, or King's officers for that purpoſe, ſell for the King's account; no other perſons being allowed to deal in theſe articles.

The third branch of the revenue is hardly worth mentioning, as it amounts to a mere trifle.

All theſe branches together, the fifth excepted, I am informed, do not bring into the King's treaſury above fifty thouſand pounds per annum, nett money, clear of all charges, ſuch as the officers ſalaries, the expences of government, &c.

Were the inhabitants of theſe iſlands to agree among themſelves, to pay ſeventy-five thouſand pounds nett money annually into the King's treaſury, on condition that he would aboliſh all duties and cuſtoms in the iſlands,

and ſuffer a free import and export of merchandize to and from all parts of the world, I am perſuaded it would be of great advantage to them, by the increaſe of trade, ſhipping, ſeamen, and wealth, which would in a ſhort time be ſurprizingly great.

On the 21ſt of July, 1553, the French made a deſcent on the iſland of Palma, with ſeven hundred men; but the natives repulſed and obliged them to reimbark with loſs, although the iſlanders had ſcarcely any other weapons than ſticks and ſtones.

Since the conqueſt of the Canary Iſlands, no foreign power has fitted out a fleet with deſign to ſubdue them, excepting one, which Sir William Monſon ſays the Dutch ſent againſt the iſland of Gran Canaria in the year 1599. It conſiſted of ſeventy-three ſhips, commanded by Peter Van Doiſt: at their return to Holland, a book was publiſhed, intituled, "The Conqueſt of the Grand Cana-"ries, made that ſummer, by ſeventy-three "ſail of ſhips, ſent out by the command and "direction of the States General, &c. with "the taking of a town in the iſland of Go-"mera." By which title, Sir William Monſon obſerves, they endeavoured to make the world believe that they had conquered all the Canary Iſlands; whereas they only ſurprized and took the city of Palmas, in the iſland of Gran Canaria; where they made no priſoners or booty, the inhabitants having retired, with all their effects, to the mountains, ſo that they only recovered thirty-ſix priſoners. But after they had taken the town, ſome of the ſoldiers, without their officers leave, penetrated into

into the country in search of plunder, but not being acquainted with the proper passes, the Spaniards killed a great number, and obliged the rest to retire. Nevertheless, they rifled the cloysters, monasteries, and churches, and then burnt them to the ground; for which Sir William Monson reflects upon them severely. After this the Dutch General took Gomera without opposition, for the inhabitants fled to the mountains, where they killed many of the Dutch stragglers.

In 1657, a fleet of English men of war, commanded by Admiral Blake, came into the road of Santa Cruz, and destroyed the Spanish plate-fleet, which had put in there. The inhabitants of Tenerife say, that the bay was then in a defenceless state, compared to what it is at present.

In the war between Spain and England, which commenced in 1739, two English ships, one of them a man of war of sixty guns, attacked the port and village of Gomera. When they began to fire, the inhabitants were extremely frightened; but finding the cannonading to continue long and do no damage, they took courage to such a degree, that the young people ran to and fro in search of, and gathering the cannon-balls. The English perceiving they were firing to no purpose, manned all their boats, in order to land, but by that time the island was alarmed, and the militia had reached the port, and were formed in a hollow behind the beach, to receive the enemy: when the English perceiving their numbers and resolution, they thought proper to retire.

In the courſe of the ſame war, ſome Engliſh privateers landed a conſiderable number of men on the iſland of Palma, who were quickly attacked and routed by the inhabitants, who gave them no quarter; among them were ſome Iriſh Catholics, who, when they ſaw their danger, opened their boſoms, ſhewed their croſſes, and begged for quarter, but in vain, for the incenſed Palmans killed them all, except one man, who was wounded and lay ſome time among the ſlain, the natives ſuppoſing he was dead: afterwards finding him alive, they brought him to the town of Santa Cruz in Palma, where he was cured of his wounds, and treated as a priſoner of war, till he was exchanged.

The inhabitants of the Canary Iſlands are extremely averſe to war, becauſe it ruins their trade, and interrupts the intercourſe ſubſiſting among them. In the courſe of the laſt war with England, they endeavoured to procure a neutrality for their iſlands.

All the Engliſh privateers that ever went to cruize among theſe iſlands, were diſappointed; for they could take nothing except a few barks loaded with corn, or ſalt-fiſh from the coaſt of Barbary. Thoſe who lay in wait for the return of the Canary Weſt Indiamen to Santa Cruz, had as little ſucceſs: indeed, unleſs a cruiſer has ſomebody on board who is intimately acquainted with theſe iſlands, and the weather that prevails there, the crew will find their hopes of gain fruſtrated.

A master of a ſhip of any nation which may happen to be at war with Spain, may, if he manages prudently, trade at Port Orotava, without

without the leaſt danger of the natives being able to ſeize his veſſel; but ſhe muſt have ſome guns, and be well manned.

In each of the iſlands, a watch is poſted on ſome eminence, to give notice to the inhabitants of the approach of ſhipping; when an uncommon number appears, a ſignal is made to alarm the country.

After the bell for evening prayer tolls, no boats are allowed to land, or to go from the ſhore; nor are boats permitted at any time to depart from a port without a licence from the Governor or Captain, even though it is only to go a-fiſhing, or to a ſhip in the road.

Exclusive of the Negro ſlaves belonging to the Count of Gomera, ſeveral gentlemen in Tenerife have a few; but they bear no more proportion to the number of white ſervants in that iſland, than the blacks in London do to the reſt of its inhabitants.

The natives have this excellent law in favour of their Negroes, that if a maſter treats his ſlave with injuſtice or cruelty, he the latter may oblige him to ſell him immediately. The ſame law, if I am not miſtaken, takes place in the Spaniſh Weſt Indies. What a ſhame is it, that theſe advocates for liberty, the Engliſh and Dutch, ſhould be comparatively ſpeaking, the only people who oppreſs the poor, to whom they are ſolely indebted for their being able to live in ſplendor, idleneſs, and luxury.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

Of the Eccleſiaſtical Government of the Canary Iſlands.

THE Biſhop of the Canary Iſlands is a ſuffragan to the Arch-biſhop of Seville, in Spain, and has a revenue of ſix thouſand pounds ſterling per annum. He reſides in the city of Palmas, in Canaria, where he is treated with all the reſpect and homage due to a Prince.

THE Provincials, or ſuperiors, of the different orders of Friars and Nuns, live in the city of St. Chriſtobal de la Laguna. They are not accountable to any but the Generals of their reſpective orders at Rome.

IN each of the iſlands there is a houſe belonging to the Holy Office, or Inquiſition, with its proper officers, whoſe duty it is to prevent all appearance of hereſy, or diſreſpect to the clergy. They have power to apprehend and confine ſuſpected perſons, without giving any reaſon to the civil magiſtrate for ſo doing: after examining them ſufficiently, they are either diſcharged, or ſent by the firſt veſſel to the Supreme Tribunal of the Holy Office at Canaria.

WHEN a foreign ſhip arrives at the iſlands, and the maſter is permitted to come aſhore, he is conducted to an officer of the Inquiſition, who

who examines him, to know if he has in his ſhip any books or pictures, againſt the doctrine or ceremonies of the church of Rome; and obliges him to ſign a paper, by which he engages, if he has any, not to land or expoſe them to view; and alſo that he ſhall not, while he remains in the country, ſpeak againſt the Romiſh religion, or mock its rites and ceremonies.

VERY lately the officers of the Inquiſition inſpected all the libraries in the iſlands, and either put a mark on thoſe books which they judged improper to be read, or carried them away.

As all the natives of theſe iſlands are zealous members of the Romiſh church, the Tribunal of the Holy Office ſeldom has an opportunity to exerciſe its extenſive authority. There is no credit to be given to the many ſlanderous and falſe accounts we hear in proteſtant countries of the procedure of the inquiſition; ſuch as its officers carrying away virgins into their priſons to gratify their luſt, and falſely accuſing rich men of hereſy, in order to ſtrip them of their wealth, &c. I think I may venture to aſſert, that no man or woman in the Canary Iſlands, has been ſo dealt with: ſome, indeed, have been impriſoned and puniſhed for thoſe offences which properly come under the cognizance of the inquiſition. As the reader may be curious to know ſome of theſe caſes, I ſhall relate a few which happened before my time, and ſome while I frequented the iſland. Many years ago, a gentleman in the city of Laguna fell in love with a Nun, whom he prevailed on to eſcape from the convent,

vent, and embark with him in a Dutch ſhip at Santa Cruz, which was ready to ſail for Holland. Immediately after they went on board, the veſſel ſailed away; but, meeting with ſome diſaſter at ſea, was obliged to put back to the bay of Santa Cruz, where, by order of the Inquiſition, ſhe was ſtrictly ſearched, until the unfortunate lovers were diſcovered, who were brought aſhore and clapped into priſon, where they remained for a ſhort time, and then were publicly beheaded on a ſcaffold at the city of Laguna. The ſhame and infamy of their puniſhment were more bitter to them than death itſelf. No one can have an idea of this, but thoſe who have lived in countries where the Inquiſition prevails.

A MASTER of a French ſhip lying in the road of Orotava, was ſtanding near the port, converſing with ſome merchants, when the Hoſt paſſed cloſe by them; all the merchants, on perceiving it, kneeled down in token of reſpect and reverence, as is cuſtomary in that part of the world; but the Frenchman, being a Huguenot, ſtood upright with his head covered, notwithſtanding all the endeavours of the merchants to make him kneel and take off his hat. Next day, the merchants to whom the Captain was conſigned, were ſent for by the officers of the Inquiſition, and examined concerning the affair. They cleared themſelves, but could not diſſuade them from arreſting the Captain, although his ſhip was almoſt ready to ſail: luckily for the Frenchman, the merchants in a body, with ſome diſcreet clergymen, went to the Inquiſition, and made its officers

ficers ſenſible that the taking any notice of what had happened, would anſwer no purpoſe but that of frightening the Dutch, Engliſh, and Hamburghers from coming to the iſland, which would totally deſtroy their commerce.

An Engliſh Roman Catholic Maſter of a ſhip was taken by the Spaniards in the war of 1739, and carried into Tenerife, where he remained ſome time a priſoner at large. He happened to be with ſome company at a friend's houſe, when the officers of the Inquiſition, with ſome aſſiſtants, ſurrounded the houſe, and hurried him away to their priſon: he was ſoon after ſent to the priſon of the Inquiſition at Gran Canaria, where he was confined above two years. During all that war the Engliſh Conſul remained in Tenerife, and hearing what had happened, ſent an account of the affair to a perſon of influence in England, intreating him at the ſame time to uſe his intereſt in favour of the Captain, thus unjuſtly detained in the priſon of the Inquiſition at Canaria. The Conſul's letter had the deſired effect; for an Engliſh man of war, ſome time after, came into the road of Palmas, in Canaria, having many priſoners on board: his orders were, not to exchange any until he ſhould obtain the enlargement of this unfortunate Engliſhman. He informed the Canarians of his orders, who, having many of their friends priſoners on board the man of war, ſolicited the Holy Office, and procured his liberty; I ſay ſolicited, for the civil power there cannot oblige the inquiſitors to do any thing contrary to their inclination.

The account the Captain gives of this affair (for he now lives in London) is, that he was pro-

proceeded againſt after the ſame manner as the Holy Office of Malaga, in Spain, did againſt one Martin, who afterwards publiſhed an account of his confinement and ſufferings. Some time after they had exhorted him, in vain, to accuſe himſelf and confeſs, they told him plainly that he was accuſed of being a Free Maſon. As the Captain did not then underſtand Spaniſh enough to comprehend their meaning, the Inquiſitors employed on this occaſion for an interpreter, an old man, a native of Scotland, who, by ſome accident, came to that iſland when a youth, and embraced the Romiſh faith, but had almoſt entirely loſt his mother-tongue: this interpreter informed him, that the Holy Office accuſed him of being a Franc Maſon (for ſo he termed a Free Maſon); the Captain ſtill not underſtanding him, aſſerted his innocence, although they put him to the torture to make him confeſs. At laſt he perceived their meaning; but, fearing he might fare the worſe if he confeſſed, he continued to deny he underſtood their meaning: this is all I could learn from him, except that, out of the time he was confined by the inquiſition, he paſſed nine months in the dungeon.

In the year 1749, an Engliſh ſhip, bound to Guinea, was wrecked on the coaſt of Barbary, adjacent to theſe iſlands, where a Canary fiſhing-boat took up the crew, and brought them to the iſland of Gran Canaria. The ſurgeon, being informed that good phyſicians and ſurgeons were ſcarce there, and being invited by the gentry to ſettle among them, he conſented, and practiſed phyſic for ſome time, with great applauſe. The Prieſts and

Friars,

Friars, who had been labouring to convert him, pretended that he had given them his promiſe to embrace the Romiſh faith and publicly renounce his hereſy. Soon after this he fell ſick; they plied him hard, but to no purpoſe; for, after his recovery, he perſiſted in his errors; which ſo exaſperated them, that they compelled him to leave the iſland.

A FRENCH Huguenot of mean circumſtances, who kept a ſhop in Tenerife, happening to be at Lancerota upon buſineſs, was importuned by a beggar for alms, having a figure of the Virgin in his hands, bedecked with flowers (which is cuſtomary there on certain feſtivals,) which he made uſe of to enforce his ſuit. The Frenchman, vexed at his importunity, ſaid, "Begone: what ſignifies your Virgin to me? Indeed, if you would beg for the ſake of ſome pretty girl, you might have better ſucceſs." With theſe words he turned away, not dreaming of any bad conſequences. The beggar went off, muttering and vowing revenge againſt the heretical dog, as he called him. The poor Frenchman had reaſon to repent of his ill-timed gallantry, for he was ſoon after ſeized by the officers of the Inquiſition, and confined in priſon, until they found an opportunity of a bark going to Canaria. Before he was ſent thither, he wrote a letter to one of his countrymen at Tenerife, informing him of his misfortune; and that he had been racking his thoughts ever ſince to find out the cauſe, but could charge himſelf with no offence againſt the Inquiſition, excepting the affair of the beggar; adding, that being conſcious of his innocence, he hoped ſoon to get clear;

clear: but in this he was mistaken, for he was confined at Canaria for more than a year. It was observed, that when he returned from thence to Tenerife, he looked fat and fair, but ever after attended mass, and otherwise behaved himself like a good Catholic, which it seems he had not done before.

THE last person whom I remember to have been apprehended by the Inquisition, was the Marquis de San André *, a man of near eighty years of age. He was charged with maintaining some errors, in a book which he had published some time before; but the real cause was the keen spirit of satire by which he had rendered himself obnoxious to the clergy. He was not shut up in the prison of the Inquisition, but allowed to range within the walls of a convent in Canaria, where he remained, if I am not mistaken, more than twelve months. He died about a year ago, soon after he was discharged. It is said, that the Inquisitors, according to their usual form, asked him, on his first examination, if he believed the Holy Office to be holy, just, and knowing? He replied, that he absolutely denied it could have any pretensions to knowledge; and as to justice, he referred them to his own case; and lastly, that he had some scruples about its sanctity. He

* The Marquis de San André, as was observed in the former part of this work, was descended, in a right line, from Don Alonzo Ferdinando de Lugo, who assisted at the conquest of Canaria, and procured a grant from the King of Spain of the conquest of Palma and Tenerife. It was chiefly owing to his prudent conduct, that the natives were converted to the Romish faith.

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durſt not have anſwered in this manner, had he not been aſſured of the protection of the court of Madrid: and as he was not puniſhed, made no ſubmiſſions, nor did penance when confined or after he was diſcharged, this may be looked upon as the firſt ſtep taken by the King of Spain and his Miniſters to retrench the power of the clergy in the Canary Iſlands: The court could not have pitched on a more proper perſon to ſupport againſt the Inquiſition, in order to try if it was poſſible to curb the unlimited power of that tribunal: and as they have ſucceeded in the firſt attempt, it is to be hoped they will go on, until the church is ſufficiently humbled, and rendered abſolutely dependent on the ſtate.

It is not poſſible for a perſon to live in any of the Canary Iſlands, excepting Tenerife, who is not a member of the church of Rome; and even in Tenerife no profeſſed Jew, Pagan, or Mahomedan can at any rate be a member of ſociety: neither indeed Proteſtants, unleſs they are merchants of conſequence. The clergy do not care to meddle with them; probably they have orders from Rome not to diſturb them, leſt they ſhould be embroiled with the Engliſh or Dutch, and the cauſe of the diſpute thereby become public, which would ultimately hurt the intereſt of the church. Formerly it was no uncommon thing for the Inquiſition to ſeize on the Dutch and Engliſh Conſuls.

Thoſe Proteſtants in Tenerife who are moſt expoſed to the cenſure of the Inquiſition are the French Huguenots, for they have none

to

to protect them from it. The French Consuls here have always been men of narrow minds, who neither kept up the dignity of their office, or regarded the glory of their nation; otherwise they would have protected their countrymen from the insults of the clergy, even though they had professed Paganism. I have often wondered what could induce Huguenots openly to profess their religion in this country, when they dissemble some of their principles in their own; for if a man, for his interest, conforms in one point to the religion of the country he lives in, why not to all? It is consistent with reason, that a man should either obstinately refuse to throw a grain of incense on the altars of the gods of his country even in the view of death, or be the foremost in complying with every ceremony of the worship paid to them.

All the inhabitants of the Canary Islands are zealous Catholics; and when they see any of a different persuasion behave with common decency, they seem to be greatly surprized, imagining heretics to differ little from brutes; for these people are by far more ignorant and superstitious than the Catholics of Germany and other countries, where Papists and Protestants dwell in the same civil community. Yet the natives here do not pay so much homage to the clergy as the inhabitants of Portugal, the Azores, Cape de Verd, and Madeira Islands do to theirs, for the women in these parts kiss the borders of the Friars garments, when they pass along the streets. The Canary clergymen lead more regular lives than

those

thoſe of the above-mentioned iſlands *, and carry not their zeal againſt heretics ſo far as to hinder them from burying their dead in the earth, which is the caſe in the iſland of Madeira, although all its trade and wealth depends entirely on the Engliſh. The merchants of the Engliſh nation reſiding in that iſland, behave, in one inſtance, to the church with a ſpirit truly noble, becoming, and worthy of imitation by all who differ in ſentiment from the religion of their country; for rather than demean themſelves by cringing to the clergy, they caſt their dead into the ſea, although they are ſure of being permitted to bury them in the earth, if they were only to condeſcend to requeſt that favour from the church †.

All

* The Portugueze Prieſts and Friars in the Cape de Verd Iſlands are ignorant and ſuperſtitious to the greateſt degree. Notwithſtanding their vow of celibacy, they keep miſtreſſes openly, without the leaſt appearance of ſhame, and have their children running about their houſes and convents. While I lived in South Barbary, a Moor, who by ſome accident had been ſome time in the Cape de Verds, ſaid to me in the following broken Engliſh, "Portugueze Prieſt no better as fool; he ſay he love God better, very much indeed, and not take wife; yet have child in houſe his: how man have child and not have wife? Indeed Portugueze Padre all the ſame as fool."

† The Catholics evade the charge of inhumanity brought againſt their religion, by its adverſaries, thus: why ſhould the principles and practice of a few blind, ignorant, and ſuperſtitious zealots, who are members of our communion, be brought as a charge

ALL ſtrangers who are not Roman Catholics, are ſtrongly importuned, on their arrival, to become proſelytes; but it has been obſerved, that all ſuch as were prevailed on to change their religion, with a view of bettering their fortunes, fell ſoon after into poverty, and ſunk in the eſteem of thoſe very people who were ſo eager to convert them.

WHILE I frequented this country, the crew of a Canary fiſhing bark brought, from the coaſt of the Deſart to the city of Palma, a

charge againſt our moſt holy religion? Does our church approve of their deteſtable inhumanity? I would only aſk theſe Catholics this ſimple queſtion: Has the Inquiſition ever teſtified its diſlike of that inhuman law, viz. the Portugueze forbidding the Engliſh to bury their dead in the iſland of Madeira? This is one of the many things which every day give them the lie.

On the other hand, Is it conſiſtent with that moderation and hatred of perſecution? Is it conſiſtent with thoſe principles of civil as well as religious liberty, which the Proteſtant clergy of all denominations profeſs, that they are ſo very zealous for putting the laws in execution againſt blaſphemy, infidelity, and hereſy, or at leaſt what they are pleaſed to call by theſe names? Theſe crimes diſturb not in the leaſt the civil community. Should not one be inclined to think, therefore, that they would have endeavoured to obtain a repeal of thoſe laws, ſo deſtructive to the liberty of the ſubject! They never made the leaſt motion towards it; and when they ſpeak of them, it is with an earneſt wiſh, that they were ten times more rigorous: and it is not uncommon to hear them rail againſt the beſt of governments, becauſe it winks at the tranſgreſſions of theſe laws.

boy

boy and a girl, his ſiſter, who were decoyed on board: the boy was then about eleven years of age, and the girl about nine; they were both dreſſed in antelopes ſkins. Shortly after their arrival, the fiſhermen of Palmas went in a body, and complained to the Royal Audience againſt the people who had brought away the children, and begged that they might be ſent back to their parents; enforcing this reaſonable requeſt, by repreſenting the danger they were in of being maſſacred by their relations, who would infallibly wreak their vengeance on the Canarymen who ſhould attempt to land on their coaſt. This repreſentation had its deſired effect; the Audience ordered the captives ſoon after to be ſent to their own country, with ſome preſents to their diſconſolate parents.

Before their departure, many artifices were uſed to induce them to change their religion: they were genteelly clad, elegantly lodged, and entertained by people of the firſt rank, who endeavoured to make every thing in the iſland as agreeable to them as poſſible; but all this could not ſhake the boy's conſtancy, for he continued firmly attached to the religion of his fathers: the girl, tempted by the gaiety of the ladies dreſs, and other pleaſures of the place, ſeemed to waver; however her brother had ſo much influence over her, as to prevent her converſion.

Some of the natives of the Canary Iſlands who were intelligent in foreign affairs, often aſked me the reaſon why our commerce ſo far exceeded that of the Spaniards; my anſwer con-

ſtantly was, that the power of the Inquiſition and the church, in temporals, infringed their liberty, as well as cramped their induſtry, without both which no nation can make any figure in commerce.

I TOLD them that the excellency of the Engliſh conſtitution lay in this, that no man could be puniſhed (otherwiſe than by being excluded from the religious communion of the ſociety to which he belonged) for any crime merely irreligious: but in this I went too far, for there are now ſome laws exiſting in England, whereby an amiable member of ſociety may be puniſhed for nonconformity to the precepts of the church.

Is it not ſurprizing that the Engliſh nation, now ſo highly eſteemed abroad, ſhould ſuffer itſelf to be ſo duped by the craft of deſigning prieſts, as to lay their ſoldiers and ſeamen, who are always ready to ſhed their blood in their country's ſervice, under the cruel neceſſity of either debauching their conſciences, or loſing their ſubſiſtence? At this time, none of our brave reformed officers, who ſerved in our late glorious expeditions, can receive their half-pay until they produce certificates of their conformity to the eſtabliſhed religion! Yet theſe hypocritical and double-dealing gentry, the clergy, are perpetually dunning our ears with a noiſe about moderation and averſion to perſecution. They ought, indeed, to behave with more moderation; for it is not altogether improbable that the time is at hand, when the governments in Europe particularly the French, will no longer puzzle themſelves how to find

ways

ways and means to raiſe money for the neceſſities of the ſtate, but will appropriate the revenues of the clergy to that uſe, and ſo avoid the danger of incenſing their ſubjects by laying on them unpopular though neceſſary taxes.

VOLTAIRE, from ſuch inſtances of the inhumanity of the clergy, takes occaſion to reproach Chriſtianity as the cauſe of all thoſe evils; and craftily endeavours to make us believe that he is perſuaded the religion profeſſed in Europe, and Chriſtianity, are the ſame. In this he is not ſo ingenuous as his brother philoſopher, the famous Rouſſeau; for this laſt boldly aſſerts, that they have not the leaſt affinity, well knowing that were Chriſtians ever ſo numerous and powerful in any country, they could never, without renouncing their religion, make Chriſtianity a term of communion, puniſh infidels for blaſpheming againſt its doctrines, or exact penſions from unbelievers to ſupport their biſhops.

CHAP. XX.

Directions for Sailing among the Canary Islands.

WHEN a ship lies at Palma, wanting to go to Lancerota, and will not wait for a fair wind (which indeed seldom blows there, especially in the summer season), let her stand over to the north-west side of Tenerife, and beat up along-shore until she weathers point Nago; from thence, with the wind that generally prevails in these parts, she will be able to weather Gran Canaria, and fetch the point of Handia, in Fuertaventura, or perhaps Morro Gable, from whence it is easy to beat up to Point Negro, along the east side of the island, because the sea there is always smooth. It is not quite so easy to beat up from Point Negro to the island of Lobos; yet it may be done without difficulty, when the weather is moderate: if the wind should happen to blow hard, she may stop in the bay of Las Playas until it proves more favourable.

FROM the island of Lobos she will find no difficulty in beating up to Porto de Naos in Lancerota. I would not advise any man, who is not perfectly well acquainted with that harbour, to attempt to carry a ship in, because the entrances are very narrow.

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IT is common for ships which come loaded from Europe to Santa Cruz, in Tenerife, to have part of their cargoes to unload at Port Orotava: these ships, when the trade-wind blows hard, will sometimes find it impracticable to weather Point Nago; when this is the case, let her bear away to the leeward point of the island, and keep near the shore, where, if she does not meet with a southerly wind, she will be carried by the current, in the space of twenty-four hours, from the south-west point of the island unto Point Teno, from whence she may easily beat up to Port Orotava; for when the wind blows excessive strong at Point Nago, it is moderate weather all the way from Point Teno until within two or three leagues of Point Nago. But I would not advise a ship to bear away as above directed, unless when the trade-wind blows so fresh that she cannot weather Point Nago; because in moderate weather there is little or no wind stirring on the coast between Teno and Port Orotava.

I WARN all strangers to these islands, to observe that Alegranza, Lancerota, and Fuertaventura are, in almost all our maps and sea-charts, placed twenty-five or thirty miles too far to the southward; for the true position of Alegranza is about the latitude of twenty-nine degrees thirty minutes north.

IN all our maps and charts of the coast of Barbary adjacent to the Canary Islands, that part of it situated between the latitude of twenty-nine degrees thirty minutes, and twenty-seven degrees thirty minutes north,

is falsely described, as may easily be perceived by the general map of the islands, and the African coast adjacent to them, which is annexed to this work. By the wrong position of the aforesaid part of the coast of Barbary, in our maps and charts, I am certain many have been deceived, and thereby run their ships ashore in the night.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

IN describing the manners and customs of the natives of these islands, I forgot to mention, that the gentry are generally poor, and therefore not being able otherwise to provide for their younger sons, educate many of them for the church. Not a few young ladies take the veil and shut themselves up in nunneries for life, because they cannot find husbands suitable to their rank, and do not choose to depend on their elder brothers, or other relations, for subsistence, or because they have met with disappointments in love: a few, being flattered and puffed up by the Nuns and Clergy, with a conceit of their own sanctity, are prevailed on to take the vows and quit the world; but the greater part of them have time afterwards to repent at leisure, and find that a mistress of a family has it as much in her power to exercise every Christian virtue, as a woman shut up in a nunnery.

ABOUT two years and a half ago, a monastery of Nuns, in the villa of Orotava, took fire in the morning while it was dark, and was burnt so suddenly, that the Nuns had but just time to save their lives: it is the custom of many people in that country, when the weather is hot, to sleep without shirts or shifts; therefore some of the poor Nuns, not having time to cast any thing about them, made their escape

eſcape ſtark naked, when ſome of the crowd, who were aſſembled on that occaſion, took off their cloaks and threw them upon them. Several fellows went into the cells of the convent, and, in ſight of all the crowd, ſat down compoſedly, and crammed themſelves with the conſerves and ſweetmeats belonging to the nunnery, notwithſtanding the Vicar called aloud and threatened them with excommunication. This I mention to give ſome idea of the thieviſh diſpoſition of the lower claſs of people. As to the Nuns, ſome were depoſited in their parents houſes, or thoſe of their neareſt relations, and the remainder in a large empty houſe, until they were diſtributed into other nunneries in the iſland.

When the miſtreſs of a family dies, ſome of her huſband's relations come to his houſe and reſide with him ſome time, to divert his grief, and depart not until another relation comes to relieve the firſt; the ſecond is relieved by a third, and ſo on, until the term of a year is expired.

All the orchilla-weed of Tenerife, Canaria, and Palma, belongs to the King, and is part of his revenue; the orchilla of the other iſlands belongs to their reſpective proprietors.

The Prieſts not being ſatisfied with their tythes, nor the Friars with the revenues of their convents, have found ways and means to load the inhabitants of theſe iſlands with many impoſitions, which would be tedious to enumerate; and though they are not all eſtabliſhed by law, yet it would be dangereus to refuſe the payment of any of them. For inſtance, every fiſhing-bark from the coaſt of Barbary

Barbary, is obliged to deliver a certain quantity of fiſh to each convent; and when the Mendicant Friars go about from houſe to houſe, they are liberally ſupplied with alms; if any one was to refuſe them, or give a ſurly anſwer, he would ſurely be marked as an object of their vengeance, and thereby be expoſed to the Inquiſition. All ranks of men here, who have any point in view, or ſcheme to purſue, take care in the firſt place to ſecure the leading men of the clergy in their intereſt; when this is done, all other obſtacles are eaſily ſurmounted.

FATHER Feyjoo's Critical Theatre, a book of many volumes, is much read at preſent by the natives of the Canary Iſlands. As it is to be had in every great town in Europe, I ſhall make no more mention of it than this, that its author's principal deſign ſeems to be an attempt to prop the ſinking credit of the church of Rome, by giving up many of its miracles (as the produce of the overheated imaginations of enthuſiaſtic and ignorant Curates and Friars, or as pious frauds), in order to preſerve the whole from being looked upon as the cunning invention of prieſts. Some free-thinkers and religious Proteſtants, fondly imagine this book to be the forerunner of infidelity or reformation in Spain; but if they will take the pains to examine it more narrowly, they will find that the author thought it was better that one member ſhould periſh, than the whole body.

FINIS.